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Inter-Arab Affairs

Editorial: Clinton Should Change 'Faulty Course'

PM2201101393 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Defeated Bush Leaves the White House"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush leaves the White House for his final place of retirement with very little sympathy and the new President Clinton assumes his duties in extremely difficult circumstances because of Bush's unbalanced policies at home and abroad.

This is probably the first time in the relatively short history of the United States that a president leaves office defeated politically as well as electorally. Furthermore, he leaves his successor a legacy of unlimited crises which could bring numerous catastrophes to him and his country.

The custom had been that presidents who lost the elections did not indulge in any important action in the transitional period. President Bush broke that rule and, in that period, made fateful decisions such as sending 30,000 U.S. soldiers to Somalia and other forces to Kuwait, and engaged in military action against Baghdad.

It is clear even to President Bush's friends that his decision on Iraq stemmed from personal hostility towards Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. That is why the coalition which fought the Gulf war began to crack in his final days. France has objected to the cruise missile attacks on Iraq, Italy has expressed concern, Moscow has called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to reconsider its resolutions against Iraq, and the Arab members of the coalition are divided among themselves. Egypt and Syria chose to condemn the raids on Iraq while the Gulf states remained silent. Not even Kuwait dared to declare support for the aggression against Iraq.

President Clinton who, during the election campaign, said that he would turn his attention to the domestic situation and to the task of mending the deteriorating economy, has found himself deep in foreign policy files and on the verge of war in the Gulf. That is why he kept the officials in charge of these files in their posts for the time being such as Dennis Ross, the official in charge of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, and Djerejian, who is responsible for the Gulf file. All the files on Desert Storm will undoubtedly be gradually opened as soon as President Bush leaves the White House, and the Americans will discover the extent of the lies and deception marketed by the president and members of his administration throughout the Gulf crisis. One of the main lies was the one about the Desert Storm victory and the end of all wars in the Middle East.

The Americans will discover that the "Kuwait crisis" could have been resolved peacefully and without military confrontation. They will also discover that certain interests, commissions, brokerage, and plots took precedence over many moral considerations.

We hope that Clinton's way of dealing with the Arabs will be different from that of former President Bush's way. The new U.S. President has talked about giving priority to the preservation of human rights and about upholding democratic values in the world. There is no region in the world more in need of democracy and respect for human rights than our Arab region. The Bush administration and its allies tried military confrontation to topple the Iraqi president. They were not content with the economic sanction and the starvation blockade. They failed to cause change at the top. The new administration should change that faulty course and should resort to dialogue, particularly as Baghdad has sent out many signals in that respect. President Bush today goes to his new headquarters carrying with him a conflict called Saddam Husayn's survival. [sentence as published] That conflict will certainly be magnified in the future when other files are opened such as the Contra file, the Panama file, and the Desert Storm file.

Libyan Delegate to League Ends Term as Envoy

NC2101113793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid this morning received 'Ali al-Turayki, Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League, at the end of al-Turayki's term as his country's envoy to the League. [Former Libyan Foreign Secretary] Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari will replace al-Turayki as Libya's League delegate.

'Rifts' Seen To Hit Demand for Trade Fund

NC2201101093 Paris AFP in English 0413 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 22 (AFP)—Disputes and political turbulence are killing demand for a new fund created two years ago to finance inter-Arab trade that is hit by customs barriers, red-tape and lack of funds, economists said.

The Arab Trade Fund Programme (ATFP) has provided only 61 million dollars in credits to member states since it was launched in 1990. Officials have put its financing capacity at one billion dollars a year.

"The fund has enough money but demand is relatively low apparently because of Arab rifts that are impeding trade between them," said one economist who is associated with the Abu Dhabi-based Fund.

"Another reason is political instability in several Arab countries. They either are preoccupied with such problems or the fund is reluctant to extend credits to them until they recover from such a situation."

ATFP, the first of its kind in the region, was set up by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), which contributed half its capital of 500 million dollars. The rest came from other Arab banks and financial institutions.

Its aim is to boost inter-Arab trade, which does not exceed eight percent of the total trade of the Arab League's 21 members of around 200 billion dollars a year. Officials say a trade increase is necessary to achieve integration in Arab economies.

Its operations cover only local products to encourage exports as one of the main steps needed to revive the economies of poor Arab nations. Many of them have embarked on reforms, including privatisation and boosting exports.

"The fund will contribute to boosting trade among Arab nations," its chairman Usamah al-Faqih said when he announced the project. "But it removes only one of the several obstacles facing that trade."

He cited red-tape, customs barriers, poor infrastructure in some Arab countries and lack of proper storage and transport facilities. Experts also blame political differences for the low inter-Arab trade.

Customs barriers even exist in regional economic blocs such as the six-nation Gulf Cooperation council (GCC). Despite years of negotiations, they have failed to agree on removing the tariffs. Internal trade has remained as low as seven percent of their total annual trade of about 100 billion dollars.

ATFP, which groups all Arab nations, has received financing applications for 258 million dollars but approved only 169 million dollars of which 61 million dollars have already been provided. The funds were to finance commercial transactions worth 355 million dollars.

Experts said they saw little impact of such credits on Arab trade as they are too low and individual deals are still dwarfed by the trade of each member as they do not exceed 10 million dollars each.

National agencies representing ATFP in member countries met in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday to discuss expanding its operations.

"The talks will focus on the best ways to activate the role of these agencies to boost ATFP's activities and encourage trade exchange among Arab countries," a statement by the Abu Dhabi-based AMF said.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Ends; Recommendations Issued

NC2101140893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The fifth general conference of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs concluded today [in Cairo], affirming the need to abide by Islam's principles, values, and constants and to review the laws in Islamic states to bring them into line with the provisions of Islamic shari'ah.

In its final recommendations, announced by His Eminence the Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, shaykh of al-Azhar and conference chairman, the meeting also affirmed the need for governmental and nongovernmental Islamic guidance and for all institutions to strengthen the course of dialogue among the ideological trends in the Islamic world so as to save Islamic concepts from being distorted and distanced from sound Islamic principles.

The conference denounced any deviation from sound Islamic concepts. It denounced violence, terrorism, and one Muslim condemning his brother Muslim and killing him unjustly. The conference recommended giving additional attention to Muslim youths and to fortifying them with true Islamic principles and values to face the deviated ideological trends outside and inside the Islamic world, be they atheist or trends that use religion as a screen.

The conference called on Muslims to try harder to shape the issues of the age in line with Islam's spirit and tolerance.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Israeli Peace Activist in Tunis

NC2101182993 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report by Abdelhamid Magouri]

[Text] Tunis, Jan 21 (AFP) - PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli peace activist Abie Natan met here Thursday [21 January] and urged the Israeli Government to open a direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The meeting at the PLO Headquarters in the Tunisian capital came two days after the Israeli parliament repealed a law banning Israelis from meeting with "terrorist organizations."

'Arafat said the repeal of the law was "a step that should be followed by recognition and a dialogue with the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people."

The comments were his first personal reaction to the vote in the Knesset.

The PLO chief called Natan "a friend whose friendship I'm proud of" and "a courageous man who believes in a just and comprehensive peace in the region for the future of our children and of their (Israeli) children, to have all of them live in peace."

He recalled that before the repeal of the law, Natan "had come several times to meet me" even though he knew he was exposing himself "to penalties and to prison, where he has been held several times."

Natan, the best known of Israeli pacifists, said that after the repeal, which he called a "great step," it was time "to work for the establishment of meetings and a direct dialogue" between Israeli and PLO leaders.

He said he hoped 'Arafat would take part in a meeting that Israeli MPs, academics and local counselors plan to have with PLO officials in Cairo in two weeks.

The peace activist also termed the Israeli Government's deportation last month of more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories a "huge mistake" that had harmed the Middle East peace process.

'Arafat Ready To Receive Knesset Delegation

TA2201142493 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Knesset member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah held a telephone conversation yesterday with president Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis.

Darawshah said that president 'Arafat informed him that he is ready to receive a Knesset delegation from various political factions in Tunis.

Darawshah added that he has began contacts with Knesset members to organize such a delegation and arrange its visit to Tunis.

'Arafat Comments on Peace Talks, Other Issues

JN2101215293 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO, has affirmed that the heroic intifadah of our Palestinian people will continue to glow and proceed tirelessly wave after wave, turning the land of Palestine into burning volcanoes under the feet of the invaders until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The affirmation came in a speech delivered by brother president Abu-'Ammar at a celebration held by the Constitutional Democratic Grouping at the Conferences Palace in Tunis on the 28th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution and the anniversary of martyrs. [passage omitted]

Brother president Abu-'Ammar praised the steadfast people in south Lebanon, noting that the deportation of Palestinian strugglers is the largest operation of its kind, considering the number of citizens who will follow the deportees among their families. This eventually means getting rid of 5,000 Palestinians all at once in accordance with a plan aimed at emptying our land from its sons and opening it to the incoming Jews of the former Soviet Union. He noted that the Likud Party, throughout its term in office, did not deport one tenth of this number.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar said: We went to the Madrid conference under unjust conditions. We chose to go so that they would not impose any agreement on our people. He added: We were offered self-administration and local elections in the form of self-administration over the citizens, not the land. The colored map they presented to us also excluded holy Jerusalem. He affirmed: No one among us would relinquish one grain of the soil of Jerusalem.

Brother Abu-'Ammar added: Some Christians in Europe and America have betrayed the blood of Christ. Otherwise, how can we interpret their silence on Rabin who is demolishing [words indistinct] Greek Orthodox of the sons of our Palestinian people. He noted that Israeli crimes are continuing against our holy land—the land of Christ—and the land of the second holiest shrine. [passage omitted]

Brother Abu-'Ammar expressed hope over the future of inter-Arab relations, noting that more efforts should be made in this regard to face the new world order. We do not want this order to take place at our expense, he said, noting serious signs are emerging in the Arab arena heralding a better future for Arab relations, citing the visit of a Palestinian delegation to Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, and Saudi Arabia. He also noted that the Arab council of foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo to discuss the question of deportation achieved an important success. This is in addition to unified positions being adopted toward Iraq today. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Labels Israeli Move 'Propaganda'

JN2201075893 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Head of the PLO Political Department, brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] has described the Zionist government's decision to repeal the ban on contacts with the PLO as a decision made for propaganda purposes seeking to cover up the Rabin government's hostile course in the occupied territories and the deadlock in the peace process.

In press statements in Tunis today, brother Abu-al-Lutf said that the Palestinian stand is not influenced by propaganda. He said that if this decision represents a general Israeli trend, then we should wait to judge it by the impact it may have on official Israeli policy.

Regarding the timing of the decision on the eve of the inauguration of new U.S. President Bill Clinton, brother Abu-al-Lutf said that Israel always seeks to (?sell the cards) it deems important to the U.S. Administration from time to time. He said that the decision was made with the advent of the new White House administration so that the latter will treat it as if it is a flexible Israeli stand. He added: However, from the Palestinian viewpoint, this decision is not so.

'First Israeli Step in the Right Direction' Viewed

TA2101104893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "A Garbled Israeli Message"]

[Text] Finally after debates, trials, and imprisonment of Israelis who in the past met outside with members of the PLO leadership, the Knesset two nights ago modified the so-called "law on the prevention of terrorism," thus providing legality to future Israeli-Palestinian meetings "if they do not endanger Israel's security." Although no one knows for certain whether meetings by Israelis with the PLO leadership to discuss issues of a political settlement will fall within the framework of the Israeli definition of "endangering Israel's security," it is probable that the door has now been opened to the holding of official Israeli meetings with the PLO leadership.

Despite the fact that the Israeli prime minister tried to downplay the importance of the law's modification by insisting that as far as Israel is concerned this modification does not alter the PLO's status and does not make it a potential partner in the negotiating process, the modification, however, contains basic political meaning. First of all, it removes the mark "of terrorism" with which the PLO has been labeled for a long time. Secondly, it paves the way for the approval of a practical negotiating mechanism for direct discussion between the parties concerned, representing the Palestinians and the Israelis. Despite what Rabin is trying to blur, the Palestinian people have chosen the PLO as a supreme institution to manage their political affairs and have accepted its leadership as their legitimate representative. If the negotiating process should bear fruit one day, the modification of the aforementioned Israeli law is the first Israeli step in the right direction.

This modification came to rectify a wrong Israeli position in the first place, but it came at a time of growing Palestinian skepticism over the usefulness of the negotiating process. The Israeli Government is still clinging to another wrong position, that is the decision to deport hundreds of Palestinians. It does not want to accept nor adhere to Security Council Resolution 799 that calls for the return of the deportees to the homeland. The Israeli Government is absolutely aware that the negotiations have been suspended as a result of the deportation decision and the intransigent Israeli positions at the negotiating table, which since the beginning of negotiations have left no room for the slightest movement toward a settlement. This government is also aware that the negotiating process with the Palestinian side will not be resumed unless the deportees are returned. Therefore, if this government imagines that modifying "the law on the prevention of terrorism" can persuade the Palestinians to alter their stance toward this principled issue, it is making a major mistake.

Along with this clarification, we have to point out that the modification is important because it indicates an Israeli shift, not a change in the Palestinian position. This shift, however, is inadequate when it is accompanied by reports about a plan to confiscate 800 dunams of land around Jerusalem to build new settlements. The negotiating process should not be used as a cover to change facts in the occupied Palestinian territories. The modification of a wrong law also cannot cover up measures that seek to determine the result of negotiations in advance. Hence, we view this modification with utmost caution. The Israeli Government has to do much better than this and prove unequivocally to the Palestinians that it is not only interested in a peaceful settlement but is prepared for the prerequisites of such a settlement.

Qaddumi Views Knesset Decision, Deportees

NC2201075093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in Tunis, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] We welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Qaddumi] Hello to you.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the PLO's view of the timing of the Israeli Knesset's recent abolition of the ban on contacts between Israeli citizens and the PLO, especially as this decision was adopted while the Palestinian deportees' issue remained unresolved?

[Qaddumi] We do not believe this decision will affect the Palestinian man in the street. Many Israelis said the original decision banning contacts with the PLO was meaningless. [Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister] Yosi Beilin told a U.S. newspaper that the decision was stupid. This is a clear sign that Israel is trying to improve its image following Yitzhaq Rabin's new policy of mass transfer or mass expulsion of Palestinians.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will the PLO make any new move in light of the new decision? Does it mean you will negotiate directly or that the Palestinian delegation will be comprised of PLO figures?

[Qaddumi] The PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. The PLO appoints the delegation and determines who is part of it. The United States, which conducted a dialogue with the PLO for a certain time and then unjustifiably halted it, must formally recognize the PLO. But the current delegation is a Palestinian delegation approved in advance by the PLO.

[Abu-al-Majd] Rabin says Israel will not negotiate with the PLO despite the Knesset's recent decision. Does this indicate a contradiction in Israeli policy? What do you call this?

[Qaddumi] We must examine the essence of Israeli policy and the behavior of the Israeli Government and

Israeli officials. The reports we read about certain developments do not clearly indicate a change in the expansionist Israeli mentality that seeks to build more settlements and accommodate more immigrants and refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Israeli conduct and policies remain the obstacle to peace. This was clearly seen in the autonomy plans it offered. This means Israel wants the Palestinians to be mere employees while retaining primary authority over the occupied territories. It means it would retain sovereignty. There is no contradiction in Israeli policy. This is the essence of Israeli policy whether Likud or Labor has power. Yitzhaq Rabin is known as the iron-fisted man who threatened to break the bones of the Palestinians when the blessed intifadah began. His government policy statement included some threats to the Palestinians if they did not accept his plans, which are designed to abolish the Palestinian cause.

[Abu-al-Majd] Faruq Qaddumi, Yitzhaq Rabin sent a message to new U.S. President Bill Clinton saying he will be sincere about the peace process and is ready to take what he termed risks. Do you believe this signals a change? What is the PLO doing to contact the new U.S. Administration to resume the dialogue and also to pressure Israel?

[Qaddumi] We have an Arab proverb that says: The words are those of sage people but the actions are those of devils. This is Yitzhaq Rabin's habitual policy. He wants to improve the image the world and the United States have of him. He wants the United States on his side. The [Israeli] foreign minister said in recent statements that there is increasing international pressure on Yitzhaq Rabin—even from within the United States—to let the Palestinian deportees return. Israel's image was marred again and it appeared not as a democratic state, but as a racist regime like South Africa. Along with the United States, Europe, and our Arab brothers, we are trying to place this image in its entirety before the new U.S. Administration, which, we believe, must protect its interests by maintaining political stability in the region. This can only be done through a just solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict the core of which is the Palestinian issue.

[Abu-al-Majd] Faruq Qaddumi, is there anything new on the Palestinian deportees in the Marj al-Zuhur camp, especially as the new U.N. envoy has said that the Security Council is running out of patience? Do you believe the Council will take new measures in light of this envoy's statement or will the United Nations continue to follow double standards on this issue?

[Qaddumi] The United Nations, which includes most of the Third World countries, proceeds toward justice. It has the sincere desire to build a new world in which it will participate on democratic bases. It wants this new world to be based on the principles of respect for human rights, the peoples' right to self-determination, the peaceful solution of problems and regional conflicts, and the superpower not having double standards, which will not help to establish peace and security in the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do we understand from this that you address one message to U.S. President Bill Clinton on this situation and another one to the United Nations to change the situation?

[Qaddumi] We are a small, emerging state and a small people whose influence on international politics is humble. But this people's cause is the world's major one. We speak in simple language. The UN Charter stipulates that every people should have the right to self-determination. The United Nations and the influential countries in this international organization must implement the Charter; there must be justice, democracy, protection of human rights, an end to racist regimes, and protection of security and peace. The Security Council is directly responsible. Security Council Resolution 242, calling for Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, must be implemented.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

[Qaddumi] God bless you.

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Deportees, Other Issues

JN2101205693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has addressed a message to the masses of our Palestinian people on the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey to heaven, saluting the people staging the continuing intifadah and revolution, saying: To us and the entire Muslim nation, Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey to heaven is indicative of the Almighty God's choice of Palestinian territory to confer sacredness on it. He added: No matter how hard things become for us, we must admit that our practical experience was based on the creed of jihad and right. Besides, jihad will usher in a new start for another Hittin battle.

With regard to the issue of deportees, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said: The world continues to play the role of a spectator in this regard. It is showing impotence in the face of the most heinous crime committed by Jews against Palestinians with the aim of uprooting the vanguard mujahidin: Palestinian religious scholars, physicians, scientists, and youths.

On the new world order, Ahmad Jibril said: What they call a new world order is the order which advocates an official international terrorism against Palestine and the Islamic nation. It is the order that protects Zionist aggression and guards the Jews' official terrorism.

Concluding his message, Ahmad Jibril saluted the mujahidin in Marj al-Zuhur and the valiant intifadah in Palestine as well as our people's struggle to liberate their national soil.

'Abd-Rabbuh Urges Israeli Recognition of PLO

LD2101191493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The Israeli decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO has drawn various reactions. Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, director of the PLO Information Department, has asserted that the decision will be without any importance unless it is followed by an Israeli recognition of the PLO. He added that any evaluation of the Israeli decision should only be made when real steps toward the peace process and to find a solution to the problem of the Palestinian deportees are taken by the Israeli Government.

Clinton Urged To Restore Relations With PLO

LD2101090993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received a message from the Soviet leadership which, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported, was in connection with the latest developments in the Middle East region. The message was conveyed to Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis by the director of the Middle East department at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

With Bill Clinton's entry into the White House as the new U.S. President, a question is being asked about the fate of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, the Palestinian president's adviser, is with us on the line to answer this question:

[Abu-Sharif] Relations between the PLO and the United States were frozen for a while and there is no longer any reasonable cause for that break to continue. We hope that President Clinton will, early in his presidency, make a decision to correct the error which had been made previously under Israeli pressure and to restore relations between the United States and the PLO because direct relations will inevitably contribute to advancing the peace process.

[Announcer] Mr. Abu-Sharif, responsible Palestinian sources talk about the possibility of a meeting between the Israeli foreign minister and Palestinian officials to prepare a summit between 'Arafat and Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Abu-Sharif] Yesterday, in my first comment on the Israeli Knesset's decision [to lift the ban on contacts], I stressed my previous call to Mr. Peres on the willingness to meet anywhere, anytime, to prepare for a summit between president Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin in response to the call launched by president 'Arafat a while ago when he asked Rabin to take a bold step toward discussing how to establish comprehensive peace.

[Announcer] What is the impact on the bilateral [negotiations] of lifting the Israeli ban on contacts with the PLO?

[Abu-Sharif] There is no doubt that decision will contribute to the creation of a better atmosphere in which the negotiating parties' doubts can be dispelled. However, the negotiations as such, their continuation and success, are perfectly linked to convincing the Israeli Government to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. That is the crux of the matter, not the side issues. Also, Israel's implementation of UN Security Council resolutions relating to the deportees will guarantee the continuation of the peace process and the negotiations. In any case, bilateral meetings, which I expect will begin soon, will contribute to creating a better atmosphere which will reflect on the peace process.

[Announcer] Our thanks to president 'Arafat's political adviser.

Clinton Urged To Repair What Bush 'Damaged'

TA2101162893 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Bush—to the Dustbin of History"]

[Text] We reflect the feelings of our people and nation when we express our deep pleasure at seeing Bush, who was possessed by black hatred and blind force, leaving the White House yesterday—a broken, frustrated, haggard-looking, and depressed man—prevented from realizing his designs against the fraternal Iraqi people by the U.S. presidential timetable.

With new U.S. President Bill Clinton entering the White House, it is premature to judge Clinton's performance during the coming presidential term and whether his policy will differ from that of his predecessor, which bequeathed for the United States the resentment and hatred of nations and which aroused in millions of Arabs and Muslims feelings of anger and indignation at U.S. policy in the region and the world. This is a policy that brought to mind the image of old colonialism in its ugliest form.

While we will be listening with interest to every word emanating from the new occupant of the White House, especially on the crisis in Iraq, the Palestinian problem, the deportees crisis, and the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina, we will watch with greater interest how the new president will address these hot crises which he inherited from his predecessor. The future of peace in the region and the world will depend on the approach adopted by Clinton, just as the credibility of the U.S. role in the region and the world will also depend on the policies he will formulate and the plans he will implement in the service of international security and peace.

The new American president will be welcomed if he repairs the fault in the dual U.S. policy in the region and deals with all crises in the same standard. There are crises that require immediate attention, such as the deportees crisis which has to be resolved as soon as possible on the basis of Resolution 799. Then there is the crisis with Iraq which reached a stage that it should not have reached had quiet diplomacy been allowed to play its role, instead of the diplomacy of guns, ships, and planes. Moreover, the recent Iraqi step on observing a cease-fire and allowing UN inspectors to use UN planes provides a positive climate which should be exploited by the new president to mend the bridges destroyed by his predecessor and reconsider the air embargo imposed two years ago on the fraternal Iraqi people.

The crisis in former Yugoslavia, too, represents a decisive test of the credibility of U.S. performance in dealing with identical crises, especially since matters there have come to a head.

While watching the new U.S. Administration with an interest devoid of any illusions, we hope that Clinton will repair what his predecessor, Bush, damaged—whether in domestic or foreign policy. Bush is now headed to the dustbin of history, with no one regretting his departure and stained with the blood of Iraqi children and the shame of "double standards."

'Ashrawi Views Clinton Policy on Deportees

TA2101193893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Palestinian Spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi says the way in which the Clinton administration deals with the deportee question will be a test of the consistency of American policy. She was commenting in Jerusalem on the change of power in Washington.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] I think this is a very important challenge to the new President, and whether he is going to uphold the rule of law internationally and whether there will be an even-handed treatment of all nations, countries, and peoples. This is a question not just of human rights, this is a question of the integrity of the international community and of international law, and at the same time of the consistency of American policy in the region and globally. [end recording]

Editorial Hopes Clinton Carries Out Promises

LD2101230293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Brothers, the editor of the Palestinian News agency WAFA has written the following:

President-elect [as heard] Bill Clinton yesterday began his term of office with hints, and sometimes without hints, about the policies he will be pursuing on hot topics which might jeopardize international security and stability, despite the end of the Cold War. The people around Clinton have prepared three or four main topics, which ought to be dealt with first, i.e., an end to the arms race, nuclear disarmament, continuation of the peace process in the Middle East region, and affirmation of democratic human rights when dealing with regional conflicts which President Clinton and his new administration wish to resolve.

None the less, we think the President-elect's predecessor, George Bush, had closed the files of the crises he left for the new President, who has the choice of either following his predecessor and thereby making matters more acute and more complicated, or to pursue what he and his advisers had announced—policies based on justice and humanitarian values, which will make matters different.

Hence, the new American Administration ought to open new hope in the future, something which used to be ambiguous during the era of President George Bush. We would like to say here, with due frankness, that President Bush used double standard when dealing with the world's major problems. He used one standard when dealing with Iraq and another standard when dealing with Israel. Moreover, he used a third standard when dealing with the Palestinians and with Bosnia-Hercegovina and other problems, problems which are too important and well known for someone to ignore, a matter which can truthfully be described as the scandal of the century of American double standards.

President Bush also ignored and remained alarmingly silent on the fate of more than 400 uprooted people who have been living for more than a month in the open and in no-man's land. He did not punish the Israeli occupier who banished them; rather, he threatened to use the veto if Israel should face sanctions, and he encouraged it to continue violating human rights.

The other hot and unresolved topic is how to end the arms race, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the region, a matter, which although not opposed by anyone, is related to two problems. First, the need to make certain progress in the political process to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute conclusively and comprehensively. Such progress will not, however, be achieved unless all parties are convinced that international resolutions will be comprehensively enforced in accordance with the principles of justice and human rights. Second, dealing with the region's unconventional weapons should be carried out on equal bases between all parties. Nuclear weapons are not conventional weapons, and they are far more dangerous than chemical weapons. Therefore, it is paramount to eliminate them in order to make matters clearer and so that the American administration will not be seen to be using double standards, i.e., exerting pressure on the Arabs and others in the region to disarm, but not doing so with Israel. Israel is the only country in the region with nuclear weapons and therefore one should deal with such a reality with the necessary courage.

If the real aim is security, stability and peace in the region, then overlooking the Israeli nuclear arsenal will torpedo the peace efforts underway because the United States itself cannot always guarantee that a nuclear power will not threaten peace in the region and the rest of world. Did not Israel, during the Cold War, threaten the Soviet Union by asserting that it was within reach of its missiles?.

In conclusion, American President Clinton, who asserted during his campaign that he would be trying to renew America, has in front of him major challenges which have been weighed down by a colonialist legacy. Renewal should be looked at as a whole; it should embrace economy, politics and relations with other countries and people. Renewal will not succeed, and aspirations for it will not grow if they are not built upon solid foundations, which can survive if they are based on humanitarian ideals and the legality of human rights. Furthermore, no one wants more than what Bill Clinton's entourage announced, i.e., his dealing with foreign issues will be based upon humanitarian principles and the respect of human and peoples' rights. Hence, this should mean one standard for all problems, which are of a similar nature, based on the principles of justice, freedom and equality.

Will the new administration adhere to this line in practice without any further obliqueness, maneuvers or tactics?

Hopes That Clinton Will Turn 'New Page' in Arab Ties

TA1901202493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "A New Page Should Be Turned With the Start of the Clinton Era"]

[Excerpts] For the second day running, the U.S. Administration, together with the Western alliance, has continued its aggression against Iraq. Civilian targets have been subjected to bombardment by the most modern cruise missiles in the Western arsenal and by sophisticated bombs dropped by warplanes. Despite the escalation of military acts against Baghdad and numerous towns in the north and south, many international sides have begun to question the real motive behind this strange military escalation.

It is common knowledge that Iraq had announced its acceptance of the UN demands that UN inspectors use their own planes and take the flight route from Bahrain. This is a marginal issue that should have been resolved through dialogue, not by planes and intercontinental [as published] missiles.

The odd thing is that the last 10 days of George Bush's term have continued to witness an intentional exacerbation of small crises considered by the world not worthy of escalation. Western sources have on occasion pointed out that this unwise behavior, especially the use of the United Nations as a tool of Western interests, will affect the future of the international organization and its credibility as a means for resolving conflicts objectively and without prejudice. [passage omitted]

We hope that the facts on Western aggression against Iraq will be placed in their proper context and that the media in Western countries will lower their harsh tones, which push for further escalation and aggression, because it is the Iraqi people—the elderly, women, and children—as well as the urban infrastructure that are paying the cost and have not stopped doing so for the last two years.

We also have some hope that the black page written by the outgoing U.S. Administration, whose most prominent feature was the tenacious pursuit of the policy of force and the attempt to impose political realities through this policy—in addition to being affected by temperament and personal views when adopting decisions touching nations and peoples—will be discarded. With President-elect Bill Clinton's assumption of his new post tomorrow, the interest of the entire world, including the United States, the Arab nation, and the cause of peace, requires the turning of a new page characterized by tolerance and forgetting the past in all its negative aspects and rancor, and the adoption of the policy of dialogue in settling conflicts between states and peoples.

Trial Urged for Bush as 'War Criminal'

TA1901151793 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 18 Jan 93 p 16

[Report by Nabih 'Uwaydah, editor of AL-FAJR in Arabic: "The Unjust Aggression Against Iraq"]

[Text] The new aggression by the allies against Iraq was an unjustified one on all military, political and human levels. That's why statements were made throughout the Arab world rejecting and condemning the aggression, and at the same time warning that it jeopardizes the unity and safety of the land and people of Iraq.

The Arabs' rejection of the new aggression was made after they realized the Western—and particularly the American—intentions, not just against Iraq, but also against the whole Arab nation. The question is whether these statements of condemnation and rejection are sufficient at this stage, or is something more needed?

It should be underlined, however, that this Arab position was not adopted sincerely by all the Arab parties. We know that some Arab leaders were forced to take such a position, in order to absorb the anger of their people, as these people see their leaders and rulers rush to throw themselves under the feet of the imperialist West in an effort to protect their power. Moreover, they have been taking a practical, and not just verbal, part in the killing of their fellow Arabs in Iraq through participating in the vulgar siege imposed on Iraq under the pretext of toppling President Saddam Husayn, who they say is the only reason for the Iraqi crisis.

The recent aggression explains what is not in need of further explanation: namely the Western colonialist intentions to subjugate the government and people of

Iraq. Proof of that is the fact that what Iraq did in the area of Umm Qasr was not a violation of the cease-fire agreement, as alleged by Washington and its allies. Rather, as was asserted by U.N. officials, it was an implementation of the agreement signed last month allowing Iraq to reinstall its equipment in that area.

Proliferating the land-to-air missiles, even according to U.N. officials' statements, is part of the Iraqi right of movement in its entire territory, as long as it does not pose a threat to anyone. But creating no-fly zones for Iraqi planes is a violation to its sovereignty. This is a plan intended to divide Iraq into a north, center and south.

Iraq has asserted during the past few weeks, through its permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdun, its interest to open dialogue with the United Nations to solve all pending problems. It also asserted its readiness to abide by all the international resolutions and covenants which would be reached.

When Iraq did not receive any positive reply from the United Nations, it understood well enough that the intention was to continue the sanctions and siege against it forever. This is something that cannot by accepted. Therefore the recent Iraqi artillery movements, which the West considered a provocation, transpired to remind the world of the plight of the Iraqi people.

It is unacceptable that in his last days in office, U.S. President George Bush is trying to destroy Iraq in order to satisfy his own desires after he failed in the presidential elections. What is needed therefore is the following:

— At the official Arab level, a strong position rejecting any new aggression against Iraq, to be followed by an announcement of the lifting of the siege imposed on Iraq immediately.

— At the public Arab level, if the unjust siege continues, all unions, institutions and popular structures must demand the imposition of a boycott on all the allies' ships and planes in Arab seas and airports, in addition to boycotting the goods of those countries.

— At the U.N. level, initiating a dialogue with the Iraqi government to find solutions for the pending problems, accompanied by a show of goodwill through initiating a resolution that abolishes all the previous resolutions according to which the siege was imposed. The appropriate, peaceful atmosphere must be created; this is the reason the international organization was founded.

— On the official American level, the new administration should forsake all the mistakes which the Bush administration committed against Iraq and open new relations between the two countries.

— On the level of the American people, what's needed is to issue a call for bringing Bush to an international court for trial as a war criminal, as a result of the pain and horrors he inflicted on the peace-yearning peoples of Grenada, Panama and Iraq; for besieging Cuba and Libya; for his premeditated indifference to what is happening in Bosnia and Hercegovina; and for the conspiracies which he engineered against all peoples and regimes which did not submit to this will.

'Arafat Discusses Issues With Egyptian Premier

LD1701214393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and the PLO Executive Committee chairman, yesterday met Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the delegation accompanying him yesterday. Their talks dealt with the latest developments on the Arab and international scenes, especially the latest on the Palestinian cause and our people's blessed intifadah inside the occupied homeland.

Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed his gratitude to the sisterly Republic of Egypt and its president, government, and people, for their firm positions of support toward the Palestinian struggle regarding the issue of the deportees, the firm and national rights of the Palestinian people, andr the the policy of transfer as practiced by Rabin's government.

The meeting was attended by brother Abu-al-Lutf, Palestinian foreign minister and head of the PLO's Political Department, and brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and Palestinian ambassador in Tunis.

PLO's Qaddumi Interviewed on Talks, Struggle

NC1601120593 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 11 Jan 93 pp 16-20

[Report on interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-al-Lutf, by AL-SHIRA' correspondent Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni, in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] What Abu-al-Lutf told us outside the context of the recorded press interview is much more serious than what he allowed us to put on tape. He stressed that it is not yet time to reveal all the facts of the Palestinian scene, the obstacles before the Palestinian struggle, and the circumstances of the political and nonpolitical siege imposed on the Palestinian will. He permitted us, however, to make passing references to the unrecorded dialogue in this introduction to the text of the interview. The veteran Palestinian diplomat, contemporary of the Palestinian fedayeen who penetrated the borders of states and Israeli barriers to reach the territories occupied in 1948 in the early days of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement "Fatah," is speaking the language of diplomatic realism that is required of the Palestinians today to improve their position in the new world order that is being established following World War III [as published]. That is what Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the Palestinian state-in-exile, says.

While speaking of this realism and struggle, within the current situation, he remembers when the Vietnamese forces' leader General Giap received a delegation of Palestinian fedayeen in Fatah's early days in Vietnam. When the Palestinians praised the Vietnamese fighters' heroism and the shrewdness and solidity of the Vietnamese leadership, Giap pulled a curtain away, revealing a large map on his office wall and said: "I fight with China's Great Wall and the entire socialist camp under the USSR's leadership behind me. You, on the other hand, fight with the constantly volatile oil fields behind you. This is why I call yours the impossible revolution. If you succeed in escaping the danger of extermination, that in itself would be a miracle."

While repeating Gen. Giap's words, Abu-al-Lutf remembers the stages of Palestinian hardships, saying: We are going through a compulsory pass. I regard the so-called negotiating table as no more than a futile debate by which each party wishes to pass the time until the current stage ends. In our Palestinian lexicon, there is no such thing as autonomy. We are not about to sign any document that will prevent us from laying claim to the 1948 territories and the right of return. In light of this, who can say we are isolated from our Arab, Islamic nation and "prostrating ourselves" [munbatihun] for the sake of any settlement, as they claim? This is not true at all. We are fighting a diplomatic battle through a compulsory pass. We know we are part of this nation that stands behind us in all our battles. This is a serious and vital battle. We are confident that Syria, as well as Tehran, Amman, Cairo, and all the region's capitals back us regardless of their different views on political methods. Abu-al-Lutf adds: We are certain that the appropriate time will come to rebuild the "jihad" front and restore collective action among Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, backed by the entire Islamic world. However, that will come in its time. There is no need for frustration or infighting. We are Muslims, as our people basically are. Hence, there is no justification for attacking Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or other Islamic streams in Palestine or elsewhere. The enemy wants us all and we must confront him united, not one by one.

All these comments were part of a detailed talk with Abu-al-Lutf outside the context of the formal press interview and occurred before Hamas kidnapped the Zionist sergeant. At that time, there was no dialogue between the official Palestinian leadership and Hamas.

The recorded press interview follows:

[Al-Husayni] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and foreign minister of the Palestinian state, how do you assess the PLO's political and diplomatic activity in the past two decades in the regional corridors amid the Arab, regional, and international contradictions and axes?

[Qaddumi] If we want to speak of Palestinian action over this long period we can say that the Palestinian cause passed through numerous stages. At the beginning it used to be raised in international circles as the humanitarian issue of refugees who needed humanitarian assistance, resettlement, and jobs. In this way the issue was losing its political character and in the early 1950's it was struck out from the UN General Assembly's agenda. The Palestinian revolution brought the issue back to the political arena and international attention returned as a nation's political cause, not a social issue. It again was a cause of a nation that has political and national rights and that must live in an independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Things later developed and the blessed intifadah inside the occupied territories broke out. It was said before the intifadah that the Palestinian revolution was merely a matter of some Palestinian resistance factions operating outside and infiltrating into the inside. When an uprising broke out inside, the world was faced with a major proof; namely, that the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories were revolting against the occupation. So, the occupation must be terminated. Five years have passed since the start of the intifadah inside the occupied territories. The intifadah has no limit; it will continue until the occupation ends. [passage omitted]

Now we are proceeding in a peaceful march, which is part of the general march of the world. It is a compulsory passageway and a political battle imposed on us which we must fight courageously. In this compulsory passageway we are engaged in a political fight at a time when many of the tools one uses to defend himself have disappeared. The intellectual, political, and information issues have become the most important weapons that could be used to triumph in this battle over our Zionist enemies.

[Al-Husayni] If this is the case, don't you feel that the time has come to dissolve the PLO? Since you have the intifadah, your long combating arm in the territories; since the people are in a state of alert, and since you have a state-in-exile, as you mentioned, why keep the PLO?

[Qaddumi] I have said that the PLO is tantamount to a state-in-exile, one recognized by dozens of countries. We have embassies in these countries. However, this state is in exile, while the real state has to be created inside [the territories]. The political, social, and military institutions of this state must be built. When the people enjoy sovereignty over the territory, the state will move inside.

[Al-Husayni] This means that you are an state in diaspora [dawlah fi al-kharij] (state-in-exile), do you feel any duality between the PLO and the State of Palestine?

[Qaddumi] There is no duality whatsoever. On the contrary, they are one in the same. The PLO is a national front, but it performs all the missions of an independent state.

[Al-Husayni] Does the same thing apply to the Palestine Liberation Movement (Fatah)?

[Qaddumi] Fatah is one of the Palestine revolution factions. The PLO, as stipulated in its charter, comprises a group of factions, and, therefore, is a national front. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] What are the prospects for a settlement and the negotiations in light of Yasir 'Arafat's repeated emphasis that the road has reached a dead end and that the outcome is zero?

[Qaddumi] Did anybody say the road is open? It is blocked. It is a political battle which we will fight to tell the world—particularly those in command who impose their will on the Third World's peoples, who are suffering from starvation, disease, debt, and internal differences—very clearly that we are fighting so as not to reach Third World levels. The road is blocked, but we are fighting to open it. We could say that Israel, which is a functional [waza'ifiyah] state, has performed the functions outlined for it by the West. Its strategic importance has shrunk. It is in the process of a historic decline and is in a historic impasse, which we must take advantage of for the sake of our rights. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Recent reports spoke of the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from certain areas or from the Gaza enclave, as they call it.

[Qaddumi] Every Israeli withdrawal from the land means that Israeli has been forced to recognize that this land does not belong to it; that it is Arab land.

[Al-Husayni] What would be the next Palestinian step in return?

[Qaddumi] We will think of that when the Israeli withdrawal takes place.

[Al-Husayni] Are there any ready plans?

[Qaddumi] The aim is for the Israelis to withdraw. Their withdrawal would mean that Greater Israel no longer exists.

[Al-Husayni] From which point will they withdraw?

[Qaddumi] From all points, from Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Gaza, and the West Bank. From all these areas.

[Al-Husayni] Will you establish national authority over the area from which the Israelis will withdraw?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian people are the masters of the sovereignty on their land.

[Al-Husayni] Are there any specific steps you will adopt concerning the Gulf states? Are there plans being prepared to restore normalization and resumption of relations with the Gulf states?

[Qaddumi] We have not changed our principles concerning the Gulf states. We are seeking to achieve Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. We also endeavor to achieve Islamic action. The past cannot obstruct our principled plan because we want to set up the best possible relations with our brothers. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] The Fatah Movement was established in 1965 for the sake of liberating the land occupied in 1948. This was before more land was occupied in 1967. You are taking part in the current negotiations. What is the ceiling? Is it tactics or a strategy that the negotiations are being conducted for the land occupied in 1967?

[Qaddumi] The Fatah Movement started before 1965, but it's inception took place in 1965. It's objectives are known. We said that we adopted the step-by-step course [al-nizam al-Marhali]. We must pursue this course to liberate our holy land. We are still on the same course.

[Al-Husayni] Do I understand from this that the participation in the negotiations or the settlement or the compulsory pass [al-mamarr al-ijbari] as you say, is one of the stages?

[Qaddumi] Undoubtedly, it is a stage. It is like the Khyber Pass, which we must enter in order to stay in the same political course of the world nations.

[Al-Husayni] What is the final ceiling of concessions, if I may ask?

[Qaddumi] There are no concessions. There is rather flexibility in drafting the objective. We must not offer any concessions. Perhaps there is flexibility in the measures. We have, for example, accepted a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But, as you know, we are completely independent in these negotiations. We even hold the initiative.

Jihad Leader on Peace Process, Other Issues

JN1701140493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jan 93 p 23

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] The Islamic Jihad Movement—al-Aqsa Battalions, has supports the recent statements of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, in which he demanded the return of the deportees as a condition for holding the ninth round of negotiations in Washington.

In a news conference yesterday, Shaykh Ibrahim Sirbil, the movement's secretary general, said: We refuse the participation of the Palestinian delegation, led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, in the Washington negotiations while the 415 deportees are out of their homeland.

He confirmed the recent rapprochement between the PLO and the Hamas movement, and stressed that the Palestinian people need to have a unified position now more than any other time in the past.

Shaykh Sirbil called for holding an extraordinary and urgent meeting of the Palestine National Council in which all Palestinian nationalist and Islamic forces inside and outside the PLO take part.

He unequivocally denied any links between the Islamic Jihad Movement-al-Aqsa Battalions and the jihad movements in Yemen, Egypt, and elsewhere, and stressed that the movement struggles only against the Zionist enemy and does not interfere in the internal affairs of the Arab countries. Shaykh Sirbil rejected the peace negotiations and said the Islamic jihad movement rejects the peace process, which has been going on for 15 months, and insists that armed struggle is the only way for the liberation of Palestine.

He added that the movement's congress, held in an Arab country early this month, stressed its rejection of peace negotiations and called for embarking on serious action and carrying weapons against the Zionist enemy's institutions regardless of how long and how difficult this road is, and even if the enemy forces gather against us and the friends abandon us. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Israeli Knesset Delegation Arrives for Discussions

NC2201125193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—A delegation from the Israeli Knesset arrived in Cairo today on a three-day visit to Egypt.

The delegation will hold talks with officials on developments in the peace process.

Mubarak Telephones Syria's al-Asad for Discussions

NC2101202993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2008 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—President Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this evening. The two leaders discussed a number of subjects related to the current situation in the region.

Sudan Mediation Efforts Discussed

JN2201124693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] During their telephone conversation yesterday, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad communicated to his Egyptian counterpart, President Husni Mubarak, the results of the Syrian Government's mediation efforts between Egypt and Sudan.

Well-informed diplomatic sources told our radio that al-Asad affirmed to President Mubarak that the recent visit by Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, to Khartoum produced positive results. President al-Asad also reported that the Sudanese Government informed the Syrian envoy that it is ready to discuss all aspects of its dispute with the Egyptian Government, and to invigorate the activities of the joint committee between the two countries tasked with settling the dispute over Hala'ib. It has been learned that Sudan agreed to withdraw the complaints it lodged with the UN Security Council against Egypt on the condition that Cairo withdraws its military forces from Hala'ib.

For his part, Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has initiated mediation efforts between the two countries to arrange an Egyptian-Sudanese summit that will end the deterioration in relations between the two countries.

Al-Baz Cited on Iraq Crisis, Sudan Dispute

NC2001211593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1021 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—In a two-hour seminar at the Cairo Lyons Club, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, made some important statements. The following is the text of the seminar as published in the Egyptian magazine AKHIR SA'AH, which will be published tomorrow:

[Passage omitted] Dr. al-Baz began his statement by saying: We hope that the limited military operation against Iraq will be the conclusion of all these developments. We regret that the policy being followed by the Iraqi leadership is both incomprehensible and illogical. There is absolutely no justification for undertaking such acts. The course of events in recent days was illogical and could not have achieved any good for Iraq or the people of Iraq. It was uncalled for provocation against the coalition troops on the part of Iraq.

Dr. al-Baz added: Some might say that President Bush's decision to embark on such a limited military operation in cooperation with the allied troops was meant to prove that he was not reneging on his promises and to clear himself of Clinton's accusation during the election campaign that he was weak with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. However, I believe that through its latest practices, the Iraqi leadership intentionally wanted to provoke the United States and the West to do what they did, which is very unfortunate. I do not understand the reason behind this, unless it was an attempt to turn the attention of the Iraqi people away from the deteriorating internal conditions to make them more indignant of the Gulf countries and the West. At any rate, he continued, we hope Iraq will stop such acts because we do not want more victims for the Iraqi people. Leaders come and go, but people stay, and we do not wish any harm to the fraternal Iraqi people, he added.

In light of the comments on the recent confrontations between the West and Iraq, the discussion turned into ways of mending the Arab rift following the Gulf war. Very frankly, Dr. al-Baz explained the current situation by saying: It goes without saying that to serve pan-Arab interests, a reasonable form of Arab solidarity must be maintained. We have to admit that a rift in Arab ranks took place following the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Baz added that closing the Arab ranks will take some time, particularly because fears are raised once again and that the recent Iraqi practices refresh the memory that dangers facing the region are Arab, not foreign.

While Egypt was preparing to convene the Egyptian-Sudanese Joint Committee entrusted with settling all bilateral differences, particularly over the Hala'ib, Sudan submitted three memoranda to the Security Council claiming it has rights in the Hala'ib area. By so doing, Sudan ignored the provisions of the 1899 agreement, which clearly defines the borders between the two countries. Sudan also disregarded the work of the joint committee and the fact that all differences among fraternal countries should be resolved amicably.

Dr. al-Baz spoke about the story of the Egyptian-Sudanese borders, emphasizing that Hala'ib is Egyptian territory and that Egypt will not give up any part of its territory, because giving up part of Egyptian territory means other parts could be given up as well. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Baz affirmed that there is no such thing as an administrative boundary between states. The boundary between states is political. Administrative boundary is that which lies inside a single state and separates between governorates, for example.

Dr. al-Baz said: Therefore, there is no real dispute between Egypt and Sudan, because the border between the two countries is very clear. But, regrettably, some Sudanese leaders have raised the issue of this border for specific purposes. It is not right for our Sudanese brothers to raise a problem from nothing, because Hala'ib is Egyptian, and Egypt will not give up any inch of its national territory. We proved this with Israel in the case of Tabah. If the issue is that of giving facilities to our Sudanese brothers in this area, there is no problem.

Al-Baz said: A joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee was formed to solve this problem. I headed the Egyptian delegation in this committee, which met twice, once in Khartoum and another time in Cairo. The committee was supposed to hold other meetings because the issue is not difficult and the border between the two states is very clear. However, our Sudanese brothers frustrated the meetings, claiming that Egypt sent military units to the area.

Dr. al-Baz emphasized that there are no military units in this area. Observation posts, each manned by no more than 10 troops, have existed since 1973 to protect manganese and phosphate mining establishments.

Our Sudanese brothers have tried to grant oil exploration concessions to foreign companies, he said, adding: Egypt held contacts with these companies to inform them that this is Egyptian territory, and Egypt has sufficient legal reasons and justification to support this. The borders are demarcated and there are no problems about them. We are ready to revive the joint committee and to go to Khartoum this month, if they want. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Baz said: Another thing happened recently. We have proof that terrorist elements have infiltrated into Egyptian territory from across the border from Sudan. This has led us to double patrols in this area. We regretted the Sudanese position in the Gulf war. This position was not in Sudan's interest at all. Our complaint against our Sudanese brothers is that it is not right to undermine Egypt's national security. Egypt will not accept any country, Sudan or any other, undermining its national security.

Dr. al-Baz added: Some of the terrorists indicated during interrogation that they received training and weapons in Sudan to carry out operations designed to undermine Egyptian national security. We do not want to anticipate matters. The issue is now before the courts and the results of the investigation and the trials will be announced as soon as they end. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz To Come To U.S; Early Contacts Sought

NC2201122293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1019 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] New York, 22 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, will arrive in New York tomorrow, Saturday, on a visit to the United States during which he will hold talks with officials in President Bill Clinton's administration.

During his two-day sojourn in New York, Dr. al-Baz will meet with UN officials before going to Washington to meet White House and State Department officials to discuss Middle East developments, the Arab-Israeli peace process, and Egyptian-U.S. relations.

Egypt wants to hold early contacts with the new U.S. Administration. Ahmad Mahir, Egyptian ambassador to Washington, has held several meetings with the new officials in charge of foreign affairs and the Middle East.

Need To Apply Legitimacy 'Without Exception' Seen

NC2101085293 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 17 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Reasons for This Egyptian Stand"]

[Text] Arabs can only regret and feel sorry about the escalation of tension in the Gulf region. Egypt was at the forefront of the Arab countries that rejected and regretted the repeated use of force in this region, which we hope will enjoy stability quite soon. But Egypt's rejection of the escalating tension and use of force does not mean it condemns the recent air strike against Iraq. There are several reasons for this stand and we list here the most important ones:

1. Saddam and his regime gave the coalition countries the excuse to stage this lightning strike against the former's military defenses when they embarked on provocative and irresponsible actions. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who appears to have lost all touch with reality, occasionally tries to divert his people's attention from economic problems by fabricating imaginary battles against international legitimacy. Only the Iraqi people ultimately pay the price of these battles from their security, stability, and resources. Regrettably, the Iraqi president retreats quickly when he collides with international legitimacy's thick stick, as in the past and in the recent crisis.

2. Egypt cannot condemn international legitimacy's actions, particularly if these concern guaranteeing the security, independence, and sovereignty of a fraternal Arab country, Kuwait, which is being provoked and violated. Saddam Husayn has not stopped his media

calling for Kuwait's annexation and even recently dispatched some troops dressed in civilian clothes to violate Kuwait's borders without UN permission on the pretext of retrieving weapons left behind by the Iraqi Army following its withdrawal from Kuwait in February 1991—two years ago. Iraq has also set up six police posts inside Kuwait and refuses to remove them.

3. The application of international legitimacy to Iraq and the nonuse of its thick stick with Israel or the Serbs does not mean we should take a hostile attitude toward international legitimacy. The right stand in such instances is to demand and insist on demanding the application of this international legitimacy, its rules, and resolutions to Israel over the deportees' issue and also to the issue of the Serbian aggression against the Muslims of Bosnia and the violation of human rights there. Hostility toward international legitimacy is a childish act that relies on misplaced enthusiasm, hastiness, and impatience. Such a stand is not worthy of a state that respects itself and its role in the region's stability. The correct stand is to tirelessly call on international legitimacy to abide by the rules of justice and reason and not have double standards when dealing with the Iraqi, Israeli, and Serbian insubordinations.

4. The continuing policies of uncalculated adventures by Saddam's regime harm the Iraqi people and their interests and even harm overall Arab strength. Had he not recklessly invaded Kuwait or had he spent some of the precious time since the end of the Kuwait war trying to remove the fears he aroused in his neighbors, there would have been no excuse for hitting him again and harming his people's interests.

5. Egypt is primarily concerned with the safety of the Iraqi people and with guaranteeing Iraq's territorial integrity and not subjecting it to partition. Egypt operates within and outside the United Nations to protect Iraq and its territorial integrity. As for Saddam Husayn, it is up to his people to do what they want with him whenever they want.

These are the reasons for the Egyptian stand adopted to face anyone. We stress that Egypt has never supported indiscipline or international thuggery. It opposes escalation and the use of force. But it will always firmly support justice in applying the rules of international legitimacy to everybody without exception.

Saddam's 'Successes' in Recent Strikes Mocked

NC2001132293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jan 93 p 9

["A Mere Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: "Saddam's Successes"]

[Text] The following are the initial results Saddam Husayn scored by violating the Kuwaiti border and providing the opportunity for a new military strike against him:

1. As for Israel, Saddam decreased international pressure on it after the crime of deporting the Palestinians. With great skill, he diverted attention from Israel—over the issue of the Palestinians—to events in Iraq. This move achieved its result quickly, because Israel took up its inflexible position with the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation and refused to help the sick among the deportees.

2. As for the United States, Saddam Husayn provided U.S. President George Bush with a heroic end, through which he replayed the heroic scenes the world experienced with him two years ago.

Saddam Husayn also gave President-elect Bill Clinton a lesson that this kind of ruler, the Saddam kind, should be dealt with only by striking.

3. As for the alliance forces, Saddam Husayn gave them live targets on which their pilots could practice and try out the developments of the past two years in their methods of aiming, photographing, and guiding. They do this at no cost to themselves because every cent they pay will be cashed or has already been cashed from the coffers of people not involved in this issue.

4. As for Iraq, Saddam Husayn distracted his people, who are overpowered and who have suffered enough from what they hear on their radios all day long—songs that glorify Saddam, for example. Through his well-known bragging, Saddam brought the tidings of the great victory to his people. Victory, according to him, was achieved by the valiant Iraqis over the alliance forces. Baghdad radio said this was the second victory the forces of good and justice realized in two years. It stressed the need to continue these kinds of victories—Saddam knows no other—and reported that Saddam repeated his call to the people to continue their jihad.

5. As for the Arabs, Saddam Husayn resumed the campaign of sullying their will in the mud and renewing their sorrows over their own and the Iraqi people's sufferings.

This is a sample of some of the successes of the terrifying Saddam [al-rukn al-muhib—play on words on Saddam Husayn's military title—field marshal—al-muhib al-rukn], the first and last of his kind.

Columnist Berates Kuwaitis for Relying on U.S.

NC1501131393 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Jan 93 p 12

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] We have repeatedly advised the Kuwaiti "brothers" to start building up a strong army to repel the raids of aggressors, whether they are led by the Saddam Husayn of today or an "improved" Saddam who might one day come to power in Iraq and demand the annexation of Kuwait to his country. This is the "desire" that has been the Iraqis' dream since the beginning of time.

But what has happened is this: The Kuwaitis have preoccupied themselves with less important issues. They believe military agreements concluded with the United States will protect their territory or prevent an invasion of their country. Experience proves daily that territory not watered with the blood of its real sons will be subject to "violation" at all times. This is similar to cases of honor, when only those who have suffered the loss of their honor and dignity fight for them.

The Iraqi Army repeatedly violated Kuwait's borders in the past few days and Iraqi soldiers did what they liked and, as usual, found no one to repel them.

Where are the lessons learned from the August 1990 invasion? When will "Kuwait's territory" remain exposed with no one to defend the soil? What is more important for the National Assembly: To devote itself to discussing the issue and consequences of "the plundered investments" as they call them in Kuwait or to urging the government to build an army faster, small in number but with very advanced weapons and equipment?

It is clear from Kuwaiti officials' statements and from the reports, articles, and analyses published by the press that they place all their burdens on the shoulders of the guardian called the "United States!" From the Kuwaiti viewpoint, Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Somali crisis, and the deportees' issue have not prevented the United States from reacting violently against Iraq if it moves outside the "red lines" laid down for it.

Also from the Kuwaiti viewpoint, since President Bush recently announced that Saddam will pay the price if he does not respect the UN resolutions, there will be a strike against Iraq.

Gentlemen, why have you not realized that the United States is the master of the art of "games of balance" and cannot "devote itself" to protecting Kuwait forever?

Can anyone ignore that free will must be backed by a strong national army, not the planes, weapons, and bombs of Bush or Clinton!

Muslim Brotherhood Statement on Hala'ib Dispute

NC2001215593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 93 p 3

["Muslim Brotherhood Statement" on Egyptian-Sudanese relations; date not given]

[Text] All the bonds that link countries and peoples, such as those of neighborliness, creed, integration, and common interests, are available—and have been for a long time—in the case of Egypt and Sudan. The British occupation, which involved both Egypt and Sudan for a certain period of time, tried to undermine this unity and create some frictions between the two states. However, religious and national duty obliges us to maintain this unity and not to go along with acts that may harm it. While regretting the official separation of Egypt and Sudan that took place during the rule of President 'Abd-al-Nasir and the artificial crisis created between northern and southern Sudan by the British occupation, duty calls on us to cooperate to achieve unity between southern and northern Sudan and then between Sudan and Egypt.

We fully denounce the reports we hear and read regarding the Hala'ib problem as a source of dispute between Egypt and Sudan and the escalation of this dispute to the point of armed confrontation. This is also condemned by any Muslim who seeks the unity of the Islamic nation and refuses to go along with the enemies' goals of stirring sedition and animosity among Arab and Islamic states. Why can't this problem be solved the same way the problem of Tabah was solved, without escalation, particularly at a time when Sudan is engaged in a conflict with Garang over the south?

We appeal to officials in the two fraternal states to bring this problem to an end in an easy way. We also urge them to achieve bilateral unity, as this surly serves the interests of both countries, God willing. This is particularly true since everybody wants the atmosphere that President Husni Mubarak created in mending the rift between Saudi Arabia and Qatar to prevail and apply in the case of the relations between Egypt and fraternal Sudan.

Signed: Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, Muslim Brotherhood general guide

Mubarak Orders Bills Postponed To Raise Revenue

NC2001202593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1913 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—President Husni Mubarak has asked Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to postpone bills to increase the state revenue until alternative sources are considered. The bills provided for increasing the sale tax and other taxes to boost state revenue. President Mubarak ordered Prime Minister Sidqi and Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz to find alternative sources to cover the budget deficit. During his recent meeting with President Mubarak, the prime minister indicated that he was sharply criticized by National Democratic Party deputies during the debate on the revenue stamp bill.

Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC1901073593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2204 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister Arian Starova arrived in Cairo today on an official visit to Egypt that is scheduled to last several days.

During his visit, the Albanian official will hold talks with Foreign Ministry officials on strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Information Minister Returns From Gulf Tour

NC2101220693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo this afternoon following a five-day Gulf tour, during which he visited Bahrain and Oman. During his visit to Bahrain, al-Sharif inaugurated the Third International Fair for Radio and Television Transmissions in the Middle East. He also attended the meetings of the Egyptian-Omani ministerial committee in Muscat. [passage omitted]

Political Parties Denounce Terrorism, Extremism

NC2001172793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—The heads and representatives of several political parties in Egypt have condemned the phenomena of terrorism and extremism, reiterating that recent events have been motivated by external and internal factors to strike at stability and development.

During a meeting held today by the special committee formed by the People's Assembly to discuss terrorism, Kamal al-Shadhili, representative of the National Democratic Party, said that terrorism is a national issue that concerns Egypt, its parties, and ideological thinking. He said that no party in Egypt supports terrorism or any plans that damage stability in Egypt. [passage omitted]

In his address to the committee, Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad accused Iran and Pakistan and groups in Arab countries of financing terrorism. He urged the Interior Ministry to watch for this financing, estimated to total 100 million pounds. Murad called on the government to solve the financial problems of university students to save them from terrorism and extremism.

Murad added that Egypt is using Islamic shari'ah in its constitution and laws, noting that some 6,000 laws are based on shari'ah.

Nasirite Party Secretary General Diya' al-Din Dawud said that terrorism has been prompted by social contradictions, pointing out that the remedy of this phenomenon must be made socially and politically.

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, said that unemployment represents a reserve army for terrorist groups, which endeavor to assume power by means of violence. These groups, Muhyi-al-Din said, are exploiting the economic, social, and political situation in Egypt. He called for allowing political parties to use radio stations and television to address various groups and urge them to participate in the political process.

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri said that the right to introduce the promotion of virtue and suppression of vice is the jurisdiction of God alone. The terrorist elements, which are using religion as a cover, have no right to punish individuals. Shukri called on the government to promote agricultural, industrial, and tourism development to absorb new employees. He stressed the need to allow the opposition parties to use the official media. He added that those terrorizing tourists are aliens financed from abroad. [passage omitted]

Loan Agreement Signed With Arab Development Fund

NC2001220193 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1907 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Egypt has signed an agreement with the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund under which Egypt will receive an easy-term loan of $127 million to build two new power generator units at the Sidi Karir station in Alexandria. The agreement was signed on Egypt's behalf by International Cooperation Minister Dr. Maurice Makramallah and Electricity and Energy Minister Mahid Abazah. The loan will be repayed in 29 half-yearly installments, with a grace period of six years, at 3 percent interest.

Libya

'Hand of Friendship' Extended to Clinton

LD2101221293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yesterday Bush left the White House in the same way as his predecessor Reagan did four years ago. Small nations breathed a sigh of relief because Bush showed such arrogance and pursued a policy of aggression and terrorism. The world can only describe him as a tyrant and an enemy of the peoples' aspirations and an enemy of freedom.

Bush replaced the rule of international law and the UN Charter with a policy of aggression and invasion, destroying and crushing small nations. He cancelled the role of the United Nations. He replaced it with the policy of force and the world policeman. He spread terror and fear among small nations in the name of the new world order.

The period of the Bush presidency and of Reagan before him brought discredit to the American people—the people who established a nation on the values of freedom, equality, and self-determination.

The election of Bill Clinton is a declaration by the American people that they are not to be held responsible for this policy which they have rejected. We welcome Bill Clinton's taking over the presidency about which

Clinton himself said that it is more the coming a new young generation than a transfer of power and it is a genuine desire for change and renewal by the generation which lived and was brought up during the campaign against the war in Vietnam and during what was called the civil rights revolution in the United States.

The broad American masses—the poor, blacks, red Indians, Jews, and Arabs, with whom we are allies, are the ones who brought Clinton to power and it these masses to whom Clinton addressed his last election speech in which he said: If you give me your vote next Tuesday, I will speak with your voice for four years.

The broad masses of the American people, of the poor classes were given the promise that it will be they who govern through constant contact and direct meetings and via the telephone. Clinton opened the White House to them today. These popular values, championed by Clinton and by the young generation who will be leading the United States are the same values as those of the Jamahiriyah to which we cling and which we champion.

The Libyan Arab people, the Arab nation, and the nations of the world expect that the policy of pressure will be transformed into a policy of support, and that the policy of aggression will be turned into friendship. We expect Clinton to stand alongside the just issue of the Palestinian people—the people who live as refugees and who were hunted down for well over 40 years living in tents and exposed to the elements and to the greatest injustice in human history. Their fundamental and basic rights are being violated—their right to a homeland and to self-determination. The same applies to the people of South Africa who live as aliens in their homeland under the policy of apartheid.

We extend the hand of friendship to President Clinton and to the young administration and to the American people on the basis of mutual respect and respect for the aspirations of the peoples and respect for the political and social choices of people.

Morocco

King Urges Clinton To Promote Justice in Mideast

LD2101143193 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II sent a congratulatory message to new U.S. President Bill Clinton, the text of which is as follows:

On the occasion of your assuming the tasks of President of the United States of America, we have great pleasure in expressing to you, once again, our congratulations and in wishing you full success. We appreciate the enormity of your responsibility which matches your country's role in preparing and managing international affairs. Everyone's attention is turned to you today in the hope that fair action on your part will consolidate peace, wherever it is in jeopardy, and will bring balanced and identical justice for all. There is no doubt that you will have to face up to several hotbeds of tension. In this respect, we have in mind a particular area, dear to our hearts, namely the Middle East region, where the danger of the outbreak of grave disputes increases everyday.

We ask Almighty God to guide your steps and to help you perform your task which, as we hope, will be in the interest of mankind.

U.S. Administration's Stand on Iraq Anticipated

LD2001161193 Rabat MAP in English 1311 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Rabat, Jan. 20 (MAP)—The latest raids against Iraq by the coalition are still making the headlines of Moroccan newspapers of this Wednesday.

The daily in French of the Istiqlal Party "L'OPINION" writes the U.S. President-elect takes over office at an international juncture marked by the dangerous escalation in the Gulf following the allies' raids against Iraq and by the existence of several hot spots in the world and that the international issues are approached through the two standard policy, a fact that harms international legality.

For the daily, one must not expect much change in the stand of the new U.S. Administration toward Iraq but that this relentless fury against Baghdad cannot be explained now as Iraq abides by UN resolutions and does not occupy any foreign territory.

For the sake of world peace and security, the new U.S. Administration should thoroughly examine and consider the situation in the Gulf region and opt for dialogue and peaceful means to settle the Gulf crisis instead of carrying on the military escalation that will only entail more victims and more disasters, the daily said adding that lifting the economic embargo imposed on Iraq, guaranteeing Iraq's territorial integrity with the suppression of the no-fly zones and respecting Iraq's sovereign rights are likely to restore peace in this sensitive area.

The Istiqlal Party's other daily in Arabic "AL-ALAM", notes that the transfer of power in the United States is taking place on the occasion of the "observance" of the 2nd anniversary of the destruction of Iraq and that the logic of force to lay hands on Iraq's oil resources is still prevailing.

For the daily, Iraq was targeted for its economic, industrial and human resources and that raids can in no way settle the Gulf crisis. The daily called on President Bill Clinton to reconsider the choices of his predecessor for the sake of world peace and security.

Human Rights Group Condemns Air Strikes on Iraq

LD2001153893 Rabat MAP in English 1317 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Rabat, Jan. 20 (MAP)—Morocco's Human Rights Organisation (OMDH) strongly condemned the allied air strikes against Iraq and affirmed that all human rights activists worldwide should denounce the partial implementation of international legality and human rights principles.

In an open letter to international [word indistinct] and human rights associations in France, Great Britain and the United States, OMDH denounced the partiality observed in implementing international legality and affirmed that the behavior of the big powers seriously harms the United Nations credibility.

OMDH asked all these organizations to take stands compatible with their mission in defending the principles of justice, peace and human rights in a spirit of authentic universalism.

Sudan

Clinton Called 'First Intellectual' Since Kennedy

EA2101192193 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jan (SUNA)—AL-INQADH AL-WATANI daily tackled in its editorial Thursday [21 January] the transformation of power from the outgoing U.S. President George Bush to the new President Bill Clinton on Wednesday.

The daily commented that Clinton is the first intellectual young president to reach the top post in America since the presidency of John Kennedy, adding that Clinton is renowned for his strong liking to reading, a matter that makes him very known to book shop owners.

The daily went on to say that the new president is from the middle-class of the American society and it seems to be clear that he is not backed by a certain financial power.

The daily furthermore said that the new American President is not from the big families in America such as Kennedy family, which one of its sons became a president, or Rockefeller family, whose son was a governor of New York State and a vice-president of America.

He was introducing his policy to the American people and all world's people during the election campaign.

State Accused of Training Ugandan 'Fundamentalists'

AB1601214993 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 16 Jan 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Sudanese Government is being accused of training Ugandan Islamic fundamentalists presently based in southern Sudan and allegedly preparing to invade Uganda in an attempt to overthrow President Museveni. The accusation is made in a British based publication, the SUDAN DEMOCRATIC GAZETTE, which has long been an outspoken critic of the Khartoum government. Bona Maloual, an SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] sympathizer, is the editor of the SUDAN DEMOCRATIC GAZETTE. Josephine Hazely asked him for more details of his allegations:

[Begin recording] [Maloual] The Sudanese fundamentalists are using Ugandan dissidents, Ugandan Muslim dissidents in the Sudan, which the Sudanese fundamentalists are using as a weapon against the government of President Museveni because they believe that President Museveni has been hostile and, therefore, worked with them against the SPLA. That is the background of their doing that, but the presence of Ugandan Muslim dissidents in the Sudan is a well- established fact. Juba has been a place where Ugandan Muslims have been there for many years. It is not only under this regime. It was there during Al-Numayri's time. They had been there since Idi Amin was overthrown in Uganda. Sudan has kept the Ugandan Muslim dissidents in the Sudan. So, that presence is well established. They are in other parts of Equatoria. You will find some in Yei. We will find some in (Numley) when (Numley) was not taken over by the SPLA. But the bulk of them are basically in Juba.

[Hazely] But, you know, these accusations, I mean, how do you substantiate them that, you know, they are training these people to go into Uganda or neighboring countries, to destabilize the governments of these countries, particularly Uganda at this stage?

[Maloual] This story was written from information very accurate and from very inside information within the Sudan, which is a larger article showing what the government wants to do militarily during this dry season and this one item on Uganda just happens to be one of the six or seven items of a military offensive that the government is planning for the dry season. So, the story is basically about the war within the Sudan, within southern Sudan. It is not Uganda. And as part of a larger inside the government document that I have, which I cannot quote to you for reasons which I hope you will appreciate, this just happens to have this little item of Uganda. But it was talking about what the government is trying to do during this coming dry season.

[Hazely] And how many people do you think the government has in mind, you know, in terms of training them, to cause this destabilization, as you allege. Do you have figures?

[Maloual] I would not think that you... [changes thought] we are not talking of less than 1,000 men, probably between 2 and 3,000 people are in the force that the government plans to infiltrate into Uganda. [end recording]

Iran Said Planning To Lend Impounded Iraqi MiG's

NC2001170993 Paris AFP in English 1611 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 20 (AFP)—Tehran is to lend Khartoum several Iraqi military planes impounded in Iran during the Gulf war two years ago, Sudanese opposition sources said here Wednesday.

General 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, who was deputy Army chief before a June 1989 coup in Sudan, told a press conference that the deal had been struck as a prelude to a new offensive on rebels in south Sudan.

Iran, Ethiopia and "an Arab country" he refused to name were all participating in various ways in reinforcing the Sudanese Army, he charged.

He said that Baghdad was a party to the deal concerning the planes, adding that they would most likely be MiGs, the only type of Iraqi plane grounded in Iraq that Sudan can maintain.

Sudan already has a few MiG-21s and MiG-23s.

The planes would go back to Iraq after an unspecified period in Sudan, the general said. During the war in which a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi troops out of occupied Kuwait, more than 100 Iraqi planes few to Iran.

The general also said Iran had delivered "between 60 and 90 tanks" to the junta in Khartoum in "the past two or three weeks," as well as long-range howitzers, ammunition and lorries.

The general added that the Sudanese Army was preparing for a new offensive on the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] particularly in the west of the southernmost Equatoria province.

For more than nine years, the SPLA has been fighting to free mainly animist and Christian south Sudan from Islamic domination by the Arabised north.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Congratulates Clinton on Inauguration

LD2101194893 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 93

["Text" of message of congratulations from Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud to U.S. President Bill Clinton]

[Text] Your Excellency President Bill Clinton, President of the United States: It is my pleasure, on the occasion of your inauguration as President of the United States, to send to Your Excellency in my own name and on behalf of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the warmest congratulations and best wishes for your constant success in leading the friendly U.S. people and achieving the good hopes and aims they aspire to.

On this occasion, I also have the pleasure of reaffirming the historical and deep-rooted ties of friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States. We look forward to bolstering and developing these ties on the basis of our joint desire to consolidate the pillars of security and stability, not only in the Middle East but throughout the world in a way that will serve good humanitarian objectives.

[Signed] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques.

New World Order Prospects Under Clinton Viewed

PM2101170993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 17

[Walid Abi-Murshid article: "A Return to the New World Order"]

[Text] George Bush leaves the White House with his call for a new world order still more of a proposal than a reality, for many reasons.

Several internal and external factors perhaps pushed President Bush's interest in a new world order down to second place in his list of priorities. It may be that his subsequent assessment of the burdens which that "order" would place on the shoulders of the West in general and the United States in particular made him less enthusiastic about it. The current controversy about the latest escalation in the Gulf region, however, makes agreement on an international legal and procedural mechanism to safeguard the world order a requirement, if not an urgent necessity.

The main aim of President Bush's new world order proposal was to produce a comprehensive international policy for the post-cold war era based on the United Nations from the legal angle and on U.S. power from the procedural angle.

The period after the liberation of Kuwait in 1991 was the ideal historic time to transform the new world order concept into a full integral international institution.

Although that historic time has passed, the opportunity for Washington to go back to the international concept of a new world order has not.

That assumption raises a question about the willingness of the new U.S. President Clinton to go ahead with an ambitious international plan drawn in its broad outlines by his predecessor in the White House.

It is clear at this point that Bill Clinton does not have a readymade plan for a new world order, but in his election campaign manifesto (the people come first) he said that the United States "cannot go on for another four years without a plan for leadership of the world." While Clinton has been criticized for giving internal affairs priority over foreign affairs, his observation in the same manifesto that "the defense of freedom and development of democracy in the world not only reflect the depth of American values but also serve our national interests" indicates that, in the final analysis, Clinton does not separate U.S. national interests from U.S. foreign diplomacy.

As Clinton takes his constitutional oath international crises rage in the Gulf, the Horn of Africa, and the Balkan states, and Russia and the former Soviet republics are on the verge of an economic collapse which could pose a threat to the security of Europe and, to a certain extent, the world.

The world will not wait long. What President Clinton needs now is a group of experts to reshape U.S. relations with the post-World War II globe as a natural prelude to laying the foundations of a new, or renewed, world order based on international legitimacy on the one hand and on direct or indirect U.S. power on the other.

It is needless to repeat that international legitimacy and U.S. power complement one another in the interest not only of a new world order but also of a world that has transcended the bipolar system and is looking for political and strategic balances that would ensure its long-term stability.

Ministry Issues Statement on 'Provocative' U.S. Act

JN2101203093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—Commenting on a statement some world news agencies attributed to an anonymous official at the U.S. Defense Department today about a U.S. fighter firing a missile at an antiaircraft battery 15 km south of the city of Mosul at 1300 Baghdad time [1000 GMT] because the batteries' radar was turned on and directed toward the U.S. aircraft, as the U.S. official claimed, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA:

1. The battery has not turned on any radar since the cease-fire was announced.

2. The U.S. plane did not fire a missile at the battery but dropped a container of U.S.-made BLU 97 [as received] cluster bombs on a civilian area.

3. The cluster bomb container was timed to begin firing its bombs at 1900 today.

4. There were no casualties, but the explosion of the cluster bombs resulted in the burning of large quantities of fertilizers and the damage of winter crops in agricultural areas.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Iraq abides by its cease-fire announcements and that the U.S. plane's act was aggressive and provocative.

UN Urged To 'Denounce,' Halt U.S. 'Aggression'

JN2201094493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi paper has urged the United Nations to act to denounce and to halt the U.S. aggression to which Iraq has been subjected, and to restore political reality on the basis of international law and reciprocal commitment.

In an article appearing today, AL-THAWRAH says that the new U.S. aggression was carried out outside the framework of the UN Charter and UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 688. The paper says: The United Nations can refer to the confession made by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who asserted that the recent air raids against Iraq were illegitimate and exceeded the UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper points out that the United Nations must review its political and diplomatic documents to ensure that it is not used as a tool by the United States, and to apply its policy which is not biased to this party or that.

The paper recalls Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 2 of the UN Charter concerning purposes. The two paragraphs stipulate that UN members "shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state."

The paper says the Iraqi initiative constitutes an integrated political framework to resolve conflicts on the basis of, and in accordance with, the laws of the United Nations, which has to exert effective efforts in that regard and not only make statements of welcome and praise.

The paper says: Reading Chapter XV of the UN Charter concerning the prerogatives of the Secretariat and the secretary general, we can see that there are many things these two parties can do regarding the issues standing between the United Nations and Iraq.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: The United Nations now has an opportunity to adjust matters and to restore to itself the credibility that befits it as an international agency working for justice, fairness, and legitimate peace.

Poll Shows 82 Percent Support Cease-Fire Decision

JN2201080393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by the Baghdad-based Information Center of the Culture and Information Ministry has shown that 82 percent of citizens support the Revolution Command Council's cease-fire decision. The decision was opposed by 18 percent of the people polled, who represent a sampling of various age, cultural, social, and professional groups from both sexes.

Those who supported the decision thought it was a wise one which confirms Iraq's goodwill toward the new U.S. Administration and intends to give it the chance to review the way of dealing with Iraq and resolve problems peacefully.

Those who opposed the decision justified their position by the fact that the decision may be understood as a concession by Iraq. Some of them also doubted that the U.S. Administration will respond to the Iraqi peace offer.

Clinton Said To Hold No 'Grudges' Against Nation

JN2201095093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0932 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA)—Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sa'id, chairman of the U.S. Arab Committee Against Intervention in the Arabian Gulf [name of organization as received], has said the Zionist lobby in the United States used Bush to strike at Iraq since it constitutes a real threat to the Zionist entity.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH, Dr. Muhammad Hasan, who holds American citizenship and is the deputy chairman of the Democratic Party's Central Committee in Washington State, says that Bush executed the Zionist plan in return for promises to support him in his election campaign, which he recently lost.

He explained that new U.S. President Bill Clinton does not hold any personal grudges against Iraq and its political leadership, unlike the defeated Bush who harbored hysterical, blind rancor against lofty Iraq.

SAIRI Calls Allied Attack 'Political Game'

LD2101173593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement yesterday announcing that the recent U.S.-led Allied attack against Iraq is a political game which the two sides have resorted to so as to preserve their own interests.

The statement refers to the oppressive policies of the Saddam regime and its blockading the people of Iraq and making them homeless and says: The recent attack against Saddam provided him with the opportunity to cover up his previous disgraceful defeats and strengthen his domestic situation.

The SAIRI stresses that the Saddam regime poses a serious threat to the peace and security of the region and the unity of Iraq and calls for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 688 and protection for the Muslim people of Iraq in southern regions, as well as the dispatch of UN observers to assess the situation in Iraq, particularly the situation in the southern areas of that country.

Opposition Figure Views Clinton's Policy on Iraq

NC2101101393 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Shalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, in London, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program on 21 January—live or recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to our program.

[Shalabi] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Today, Thursday, Bill Clinton starts a new era in U.S. presidential history. Iraq has come under numerous air raids. How do you see the situation concerning the crisis between Iraq and the United States and the international alliance?

[Shalabi] The recent crisis is of Saddam's own making. Saddam challenged international resolutions. He renewed attacks on Kuwait. We denounce his attacks on Kuwait and his violation of UN resolutions concerning Kuwait. Saddam also massed large forces to threaten the northern part of Kurdistan in Iraq. He wanted to attack and occupy Kurdish areas again. The international action against Saddam answered the latter's attempts to defy UN resolutions.

As for President Clinton and the new U.S. Administration, we hope this Administration has learned from the experience of the Bush administration. President Bush's political planning for the region and Iraq fell short of the military planning upon which his administration embarked to liberate Kuwait. There are political and democratic forces in Iraq that seek to change the regime and establish a constitutional, parliamentarian, democratic, pluralistic regime in Iraq but there has been no [U.S.] attempt to work and coordinate with these forces. There has been no comprehensive plan to support the Iraqi forces in their bid to change the situation in Iraq.

[Al-Jundi] You mentioned that change [in Iraq] is the responsibility of the Iraqi people. As an Iraqi opposition, tell us of your continuing efforts to create change and put Iraq on the right track.

[Shalabi] Yes. We seek change and, as I said before, we try to establish a constitutional, parliamentary, democratic, pluralistic government in Iraq, a government that safeguards Iraq's territorial integrity and rehabilitates the country's sovereignty that Saddam has squandered. As for our work, we have formed the Unified Iraqi National Congress, with headquarters in Irbil, in northern Iraq. From our offices in Irbil, we work to change things in Iraq. We are in permanent touch with the influential sides in Iraq, including figures within the Iraqi Armed Forces. Our aim is to win their support and involve them in the desired process of change.

[Al-Jundi] U.S. President Clinton has said he will judge Saddam Husayn by his actions alone. Do you believe Saddam Husayn's conduct—as a new Administration takes over in the United States—may change?

[Shalabi] Saddam's nature will not change, nor will his conduct. We do not believe the new U.S. Administration will deal with Saddam any differently from the previous administration. But we believe there is a change in the position of Clinton's administration. Last Sunday [17 January] Vice President Al Gore said he supports Saddam's trial by an international tribune for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. New U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also told the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs that he supports Saddam's trial. This is a new measure and a new U.S. policy initiative, because President Bush's administration did not support the call for Saddam's trial.

[Al-Jundi] Tell us about your exchanges with the new Clinton administration.

[Shalabi] We seek to persuade the new U.S. Administration and Arab and neighboring countries to support our bid for change in Iraq. We hope the new U.S. Administration, brotherly Arab countries, and neighboring Islamic countries will adopt a clear policy of support for our efforts to rid the Iraqi people of the dictatorial regime. Such support, I would like to add, would weaken Saddam's grip on power and enable us to take the initiative. Saddam must then react to what we do, not us what he does. With such support, I believe we will succeed, God willing.

[al-Jundi] Do you have clear and definite plans for Iraq?

[Shalabi] Yes. We seek to establish a democratic, constitutional, parliamentarian, and pluralistic regime in Iraq. We want to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity. This is an objective that we seek and for which we fight. We also want to restore to Iraq the sovereignty that Saddam forfeited with his actions concerning the international community. We also want Iraq to have excellent relations with brotherly Arab countries. We want the conspiratorial and terrorist acts of Saddam against Arab countries to be a thing of the past. We seek to form fraternal relations with the Islamic countries neighboring Iraq. We are committed to Iraq's independence and to the independence of Iraq's will. This is one of our primary objectives. We are committed to press freedom and to freedom of opinion in Iraq. We want to establish the supremacy of law in Iraq. The law should have the final say in disputes among Iraqis. We denounce violence and the use of the Iraqi Armed Forces to promote narrow party objectives. The Iraqi Army's duty is to defend the country, not to engage in conspiracy and aggression.

Opposition Parties Criticize Raids, Condemn Saddam

NC2001160893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The Coordination and Follow-up Committee of the Iraqi Islamic and pan-Arab trends in Damascus issued a statement yesterday saying that the allied air raids against Iraq were a result of the clumsy policy of the outcast tyrant's regime, which cares only about power. The statement says the ostracized regime, through its reckless policy and dictatorial conduct, provides foreign forces with one excuse after another [to intervene] in the region. The regime continues to divide ranks, the statement adds.

The statement notes that the regime's oppressive policy against the Iraqi people and the policy of foreign aggression have inflicted heavy damage on the Iraqi people and on Arab and Muslim causes.

The Free Iraqi Council has sent a message to new U.S. President Bill Clinton, holding tyrant Saddam responsible for the harm brought on Iraq as a result of his violation of the cease-fire terms and his infiltration of the international zone on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. The Council proposes that the best way to confront the tyrant's regime and threats is to target the head of the regime. The Security Council and the coalition states should demand that tyrant Saddam surrender to the international coalition so that he can be tried before an international court after [words indistinct] and harm the Iraqi people, the message adds. [passage omitted]

In Damascus, the opposition al-Da'wah Party condemned Western air and missile strikes against Iraq but at the same time stressed its determination to overthrow tyrant Saddam Husayn. The party said in a statement that the Muslim Iraqi people, who have sacrificed many martyrs, are now more determined to continue jihad to overthrow the regime and cut off the foreign hands that try to shake Iraq's independence and sovereignty.

Grenade Reportedly Injures 18 in al-Sulaymaniyah

NC2101173693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] A hand grenade exploded near (Hiwa) Hotel on (Kawa) Street in al-Sulaymaniyah this morning. The blast injured 18 people and caused material damage to shops. Police and civil defense teams arrived at the scene immediately after the incident. Investigations are under way to apprehend our people's enemies who carried out this criminal act.

Health Minister Urges World To Lift Blockade

JN2101205993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Geneva, 21 Jan (INA)—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, health minister and acting minister of labor and social affairs, has appealed to the international community to lift the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a detailed statement before the WHO Executive Council, currently holding its meeting in Geneva, the minister reviewed the negative effects of the blockade on Iraq, particularly preventing it from obtaining medicine, vaccines, baby milk, and basic foodstuffs. He said that the blockade, which has been imposed on Iraq for more than two years, has led to injury or death among children and the elderly.

Iraq is participating in this important WHO meeting as a member of the Executive Council, which includes 31 states. [passage omitted]

'Baby Milk Factory' Damaged in Gulf War Opened

JN2101184793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—The baby milk factory, which sustained immense damage as a result of the treacherous 30-state aggression against Iraq, was inaugurated today through Iraqi efforts and expertise—and in record time—despite the circumstances of the unjust blockade.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, prime minister and President Saddam Husayn's representative, made a statement in which he said that the mujahidin in the Military Industrialization Organization and their effective contribution to the reconstruction of Iraq played a distinguished role in reducing time and exploiting resources to check enemy plans. [passage omitted]

Official Says Peshmerga Ready for Regime Attacks

NC2001173893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The Kurdistan parliament held a regular session yesterday morning, attended by prime minister Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum. Dr. Ma'sum said: We want to reassure the masses of our Kurdish people that the peshmerga forces are ready to repulse any attack by the Iraqi regime against Kurdistan. He announced to the Kurdish people that the peshmerga forces will soon be united.

Statement on Merger Between Iraqi Turkoman Parties

NC2001114993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1651 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Statement by the Political Bureau Secretariat of the Turkoman Fraternity Party of Iraq [hizb al-ikha' al-turkuman al-'Iraq]; date not given]

[Text] O sons of our Iraqi people and sons of our Turkoman national community: Our party has held a series of meetings and talks with the National Turkoman Party [hizb al-watani al-turkumani] in the cause of Turkoman national identity, to close ranks, unify the Turkomans' position, obtain all their national and legitimate rights, to overthrow the dictatorial regime, and establish a free and democratic alternative that will restore to our wounded Iraqi people their freedom and dignity and return Iraq to the civilized international community.

O sons of our struggling people: Regrettably, our party has discovered tangible evidence of certain cheating and forgery in the union issue. So the National Turkoman Party and our brave party, the Turkoman Fraternity Party of Iraq, have not agreed to unify their ranks under a united leadership in view of the difficult circumstances our Turkoman people and our party are enduring.

Relying on God, we held a series of meetings and talks in a fraternal atmosphere with the fraternal Turkoman Union Party [hizb al-ittihad al-turkumani] in Turkey and Cyprus and both parties agreed to merge and unify their ranks under one leadership and banner bearing the name of the Turkoman Fraternity Union Party of Iraq [hizb ittihad al-ikha' al-turkumani al-'Iraq].

With the unity between our party and the fraternal Turkoman Union Party, we have added new and strong momentum to the Iraqi opposition to achieve all its goals and those of the struggling Turkoman people. May you live for struggle and may God grant us success.

[Signed] The Political Bureau Secretariat of the Turkoman Fraternity Party of Iraq

Oil Minister Cited on Production Capacity

JN1601150293 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 16, INA—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Hiti was quoted today by AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper as saying Iraqi oil production capacity would reach three million b/d [barrels per day] this year due to be increased gradually to 3.5 million b/d.

Interviewed by the daily, the minister noted that Iraq was the only state that could achieve miracle-like leaps in the field of increasing crude output potentiality due to availability of huge oil fields among which Majnun, west of al-Qurnah, al-Halfayah, Nahr 'Umar fields and others.

Mr. al-Hiti explained that Iraq was aiming at develping oil production capacity to six million b/d by the end of this century.

Referring to production costs, he said the cost of producing a barrel of oil in Iraq did not exceed one dollar while the cost doubles in the U.S. and Russia for example.

Speaking on oil reserves in the country, Mr. al-Hiti explained that Iraq had consolidated the proven crude reserve using Iraqi expertise adding that there were ambitious programmes aimed at drilling 5,000 to 10,000 oil wells during the coming years.

He said Iraq possessed good trade relations with foreign firms which pursued a committed manner of dealing with the country. The minister added that "Iraq has a wide network of relations with those who prefer to deal with us."

Speaking about OPEC, the minister elaborated that there was a competion between Iran and Saudi Arabia inside the organization concerning allocation of output quotas.

The minister denied there were bilateral coalitions inside OPEC but he referred to the vanish of the role of many states which they had been described as "falcons."

He said the slump of the value of the dollar and wavering of demand on oil led to the failure of development plans in oil producing nations.

Mr. al-Hiti added that the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and fabricating crisis in the region were aimed at controlling the region's resources.

The oil minister stated that Umm al-Ma'arik (the Mother of Battles) had exposed a hidden and programmed hatred by the West towards the Arab nation saying the allied nations did not only disturption [as received] of refineries as usually happens in wars but they completely destroyed refineries with the aim of agitating furor among civilians about basic oil products.

He added that the aggression targeted not only the military machine but also the country's infrastructure and the evidence for that was the continuation of the U.S. to beat the drums of war because of Iraq's success in the reconstruction drive.

'Arafat Invites Rabin To Meet During TV Phone Call

TA2101201593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening said that there was a time for war and a time to make peace. 'Arafat called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and members of his government to meet him in order to put an end to the hatred. 'Arafat was speaking on the phone this evening on Israel television's "In the Knesset" program. Here are some of his remarks.

[Begin 'Arafat recording in Arabic] I repeat my invitation to Prime Minister Rabin and his government to a meeting, the meeting of the brave to make the peace of the brave. The coming generations will say that this meeting, if it takes place, is the event of the entire age and that we managed to overcome all obstacles to making a genuine peace for our children and their future. [end recording]

In reaction to these statements, the prime minister's media adviser said that the prime minister's and the Israeli Government's position remained that negotiations would only be held with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. The PLO leadership in Tunis is not a party to the negotiations, he added.

Rabin Turns Down Offer

NC2201070593 Paris AFP in English 0653 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 22 (AFP)—Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin has turned down a suggestion from Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) that the two meet for peace talks, official sources said Friday.

"Israel does not negotiate with the PLO but only with the Palestinian delegation from the (occupied) territories," Rabin's spokesman Gad ben Ari told the press, stressing that the Israeli position on the issue had not changed.

Mixed Signals From PLO Following Repeal of Ban

TA2201102293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Ora 'Arif]

[Excerpts] Following the repeal of the law which banned meetings between Israeli citizens and PLO members, PLO officials are now speaking about Israel in two voices.

In the first message of its kind on Israeli state television, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to return the deportees and to meet with him in order to discuss a peace agreement. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this week received a report of a conversation between Faruq Qaddumi, who is 'Arafat's deputy and No. 2 in the PLO, and a Western personage.

During the meeting, Qaddumi said: "The State of Israel is an artificial entity. If it had a role as a front line bulwark against communism during the Cold War, then today it no longer plays that role. Israel is rife with domestic problems and economically and socially ruptured. If Israel withdraws to the 1967 borders, which is what we want, it will lose its vitality and will be unable to absorb more immigrants. Aliyah is Israel's raison d'etre. Without aliyah it will lose its international legitimacy. Therefore the very definition of the Jewish state must be reexamined. One should look for another framework for the Jews to exist. [passage omitted]

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TA2201094393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The Nazareth municipality has congratulated Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of the repeal of the law banning meetings with representatives of terrorist organizations. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad said during the local council's meeting that this move constitutes a victory for the PLO, expressing the hope that it will be followed by recognition of the organization and direct negotiations with it.

Knesset Members, Academics To Meet PLO Leaders in Cairo

TA2101063293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Peace activist Abie Natan has arrived in Tunis for a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. He is the first Israeli to take advantage of the new amendment passed by the Knesset allowing contacts with the PLO. Natan, who had spent nearly a year in jail for breaking the Antiterror Law, said on his arrival he would seek a reciprocal gesture from 'Arafat, whom he has met a dozen times over the past 10 years.

Jerusalem City Council member Moshe 'Amirav says he has arranged a meeting in Cairo with PLO Central Committee members and Knesset members [MK's] from three parties and Israelis and academics. 'Amirav says he spoke by phone with the PLO's Nabil Sha'th and decided to hold the gathering in the Egyptian capital within two weeks. Sha'th demanded that any Israelis participating would be opposed to the deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists.

Council member 'Amirav said among those expected to take part are MK's Ya'el Dayan, No'omi Hazan, and 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, and, from the academic world, Reserve General Aharon Yariv and Middle East expert Moshe Ma'oz.

Rabin Interviewed on Middle East Settlement

NC2101194593 London MBC Television in Arabic 1716 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Mahir Shalabi and John Sweeney in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded, in English with superimposed translation into Arabic]

[Text] [Sweeney] Mr. Prime Minister, this meeting is considered a historic event. This is the first time an Israeli prime minister has done an interview with an Arab television network. The question is: Did you have any special reason for agreeing to hold this interview?

[Rabin] I believe that since we, the people of Israel, have decided to establish our state here in the land of Israel and among the neighboring Arab countries and peoples, there are two ways in which we and the Arab peoples can live: either at war or in peace. We prefer that peace be the basis for building relations between the Arab countries and peoples and Israel. Therefore, any direct negotiations between the Israeli leaders and the Arabs and between the people of Israel and the peoples of the Arab countries will contribute to creating a better climate of understanding, without which peace cannot be achieved or maintained.

[Sweeney] Do you reasonably expect the peace negotiations to be successful? If so, how do you envision Israel within the new framework of the Middle East peace process?

[Rabin] I believe in peace. I have seen too many wars and bloodshed on both sides. I believe that in the long term it will be possible to reach peace for the sake of the area and its peoples and countries. I believe the Middle East area contains vast sources of energy ample enough for all those who live in it. The peace process or the peace negotiations are now focusing on the invitation which was sponsored by the former Soviet Union, and Russia now, and the United States for peace negotiations in Madrid. Many people expected miracles. It is not so simple to get rid of the hatred, suspicion, animosity, war, and violence which constituted and still constitute part of the daily lives and relationships between the Arab countries and Israel.

I think that what we have done—at least since I became prime minister—is to realize that peace cannot be achieved without compromises by both sides. On our part, for example, and through our negotiations with Syria, we did what no government in Israel had done in the past. We openly and clearly said that we accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for a peace agreement between Israel and Syria. We clearly said that this means withdrawing Israeli forces from the Golan Heights to secure the recognized boundaries. We told the Syrians that we will not negotiate the dimensions of the withdrawal before we know the nature of the peace Syria is offering us. Will it be along the lines of the peace we have with Egypt—that is, open boundaries for the movement of people and goods, diplomatic relations, including embassies, and a policy that encourages the normalization of relations between the peoples of the two countries? On the other hand, let the peace treaty once it is signed stand on its own feet and not be influenced by what could be accomplished or not accomplished in the peace negotiations with the other participating Arab countries. I think that until now, and for the past 25 years, no Israeli government has made such an offer to Syria. I am not saying that it is simple and that a settlement will be reached tomorrow. I think that Syria is a partner and has a president who is able to make decisions.

Regarding the Palestinians in the Israeli territories, unfortunately, the issue is more complicated. It was decided, with the consent of all the delegations participating in the Madrid peace conference, that the Palestinian and Israeli sides should reach a permanent solution through various stages. The first stage is ISGA, meaning arrangements for an interim self-government authority for a period of no longer than five years. At the beginning of the third year of this period, negotiations are held to find a permanent solution based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The interim agreement should serve as a prelude that will change the situation in the region, create confidence, and give the Palestinians what Jordan failed to give them when the West Bank was under its control, and what Egypt failed to give when it controlled Gaza—namely, the Palestinians will run their own affairs. This is an interim agreement that does not deal with the main subjects that must be agreed upon to reach a permanent solution.

The problem lies in the lack of a cohesive leadership for the Palestinians and the spread of domestic violence. Because of the hardliners, the moderates are reluctant to proceed with the peace process and realize that a compromise is the only way to reach a peace agreement. But I am not pessimistic. I believe there is a need for the Arab and Israeli negotiators to achieve peace. I also tend to believe that 1993 will witness decisive settlements, or at least one decisive settlement.

[Sweeney] Mr. Prime Minister, the Palestinian representative pointed out that your public statements differ greatly from what the Israeli delegation proposed at the negotiating table.

[Rabin] I said time and again that I am ready to meet with the Palestinian negotiating delegation today or tomorrow, here in Jerusalem. There is no need to go to Washington to meet. I am ready to explain to them that there is no difference in essence. In short, we want to give the Palestinians the right to run almost all civil and government jobs. We want them, if they want, to enjoy democratic general elections to elect a Palestinian body to represent them and run the interim self-government affairs. We are ready to see them running courts and domestic, agricultural, commercial, health, cultural, and police affairs in the regions where Palestinians live. We do not mean regional divisions, but the management of the territories. For our part, we will run the affairs of the Israelis living in the region and take the responsibility for public security.

[Shalabi] Are you ready to meet a representative of the PLO which truly represents the Palestinian people?

[Rabin] I am ready to meet with the official Palestinian delegation in its current form, which represents the Palestinians in the territories here in Jerusalem. We negotiated with this delegation, which agreed to participate in the Madrid conference on the basis of certain principles. If we violate these principles on which we agreed and on the basis of which the Madrid conference as well as the peace negotiations that followed were held, it means that we would change the rules of the game in the peace process. This would mean that these principles are invalid. We have to cling to our responsibilities and to the formula on which the negotiations were based. We expect all the negotiating Arab delegations, including the Palestinian delegation, to fulfill their obligations. We have no objections regarding the Syrian, Jordanian, or Lebanese delegations. Nor do we have any objections to the Palestinian delegation as long as it adheres to the rules of the game on which it previously agreed. I am not talking of anything new.

[Sweeney] I have a question regarding the issue of contacting the Palestinians, but I would like to go back to what you mentioned a while ago. You expect a firm settlement in 1993. Could you be more specific, and do you mean Syria?

[Rabin] I do not want to specify. I believe that certain Arab countries and we have demonstrated interest in the peace process. This interest may result in real and positive results. At this stage, I do not think it is right to begin by specifying more than I already have done. I would like to give open chances to all.

[Sweeney] But there have been speculations that certain progress has been made in the negotiations with Syria.

[Rabin] I believe that the way we presented our position no doubt has led to this change. I hope the Syrians and the Palestinians also will understand our distinguished political stand which we demonstrated in the peace negotiations. For example, the former Israeli Government approved holding only municipal elections, but I agree to holding general political elections for the Palestinians. Second, the former Likud government's philosophy and policy were based mainly on the assumption that all Israeli territories, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, should be part of Israel's sovereignty over all its territories. I maintain the opposite: I want Israel to be a Jewish state and not a state consisting of two nationalities. I do not want to annex 1.8 million Palestinians who live in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. I am not saying that I will return to the pre-Six-Day War borders. Therefore, I am ready to make territorial concessions. I do not have the intention to annex the areas in which the bulk of the Palestinians live. Third, I prevented the building of 7,000 housing units which were planned in Palestinian territories, because for special reasons, I do not want to dissipate our energy in building houses in an area which I do not consider to be priority for Israel. We were unable to stop what we had previously began to build and had to finish, but we do not give priority to investment in Palestinian areas.

[Shalabi] Mr. Prime Minister, the Israeli Government's latest measure to deport hundreds of Palestinians—or what it calls temporary deportation—from their land created a feeling among the Palestinians that peace process should not be continued unless the deportees are repatriated to their homes. Are you willing to take this situation into consideration?

[Rabin] You have to bear in mind that Israel under the current administration hopes to achieve peace and is willing to offer some concessions, but at the same time, we can not be lenient when it comes to the Israelis' security and the Palestinians' security where they live. In 1992, for example, 220 Palestinians were killed by Palestinians, which is four or five times the number killed in clashes with Israeli forces.

There are two groups among the Palestinians. The first is still continuing acts of violence and terrorism but wishes to find a settlement to the problem by continuing the peace negotiations. The second group consists of extremists, such as those who belong to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. This group's goal from the daily acts of violence and terrorism against the Israelis and Palestinians is not only to kill and spread terror, but to put an end to the peace negotiations. Their declared goal is to use all possible means, including violence, to terminate the peace process. They practice these methods in Lebanon through Hizballah led by Shaykh Nasrallah, who openly asked the Lebanese Government to stop the peace negotiations.

In the Palestinian territories, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad call for ending the peace negotiations. We should deal with this on a security basis, bearing in mind that the political aim of their acts of violence is to foil the entire peace process.

[Sweeney] Despite what you said, about 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli authorities since the intifadah broke out. How can you gain the trust of the Arab people?

[Rabin] Regarding the wars between Egypt and Israel, in which thousands of Israelis and tens of thousands of Egyptians were killed, I believe that the wisdom of the Egyptian and Israeli leadership led the two sides to realize that the only way to end bloodshed and eradicate the situation of preparing for war is to sign a peace accord.

[Shalabi] Some Palestinian sources say that if Israel repatriates the deportees and halts the activity of the special forces and the policy of collective punishment of the Palestinians in exchange for the Palestinians halting violence, including the intifadah, this will create a better atmosphere for the peace negotiations.

[Rabin] Allow me to say to you that I wish I did not have to send the current number of Israeli troops to the Palestinians' territories. I do not want to keep the Palestinians in military installations, nor do I want to detain the Palestinians or carry out temporary deportations if peace prevails in their areas. If the acts of terrorism truly stop for six or nine months, I am willing to repatriate all Palestinians who were deported temporarily to their homes. I cannot accept acts of violence and confrontation against Israelis and Palestinians, and I cannot accept disrupted security and stability. I have been under continuous pressure from the Israeli street to halt the peace negotiations as long as terrorism continues, but I refused and said I would not adopt this path. I said I would negotiate to establish peace as if terrorist acts did not exist and would fight terrorism as if peace negotiations did not exist. If we do not separate the two issues and consider that one of them is conditional on the other, this will prompt the Palestinians and possibly the Israelis to commit acts of violence and halt the peace negotiations.

[Shalabi] But Mr. Prime Minister, there also are examples of Israeli acts of terrorism against Palestinians.

[Rabin] Give me an example.

[Shalabi] The hand grenade which was tossed at Palestinians in the old City of Jerusalem by an Israeli group.

[Rabin] Yes, such an incident occurred, during which a hand grenade was thrown. We are searching for the culprit to bring him to court.

[Shalabi] Will you deport him?

[Rabin] But this is one incident which you have mentioned. Those who were deported temporarily were not the ones who actually opened fire, planted a bomb, or threw a grenade or a petrol bomb. These are the leaders, instigators, organizers, financiers, and creators of the infrastructure of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. They issue orders to the terrorists to carry out their terror acts.

[Shalabi] But Mr. Prime Minister, there are other ways. The United Nations noted that expulsion or temporary deportation is a violation of international law and a breach of the rights of another country, which in this case is Lebanon, with whom you have met at the negotiating table.

[Rabin] Our interpretation of the international law is related to the deportation issue. In the past, deportations were permanent. We changed this. We do not deal with the deportation issue the way it is interpreted in the international law. We deported the Palestinians temporarily for 18-24 months. After that they can return to their homeland.

[Shalabi] Are the other deportees also allowed to submit a petition to return to their homes since you say you respect international law?

[Rabin] Every deportee has the right to submit a request to be returned. Regarding those who were temporarily deported, we made it clear that they can submit appeals to special committees. One of the deportees submitted an appeal yesterday or today. His appeal was submitted by his lawyer.

[Sweeney] When you meet with the new U.S. Administration in Washington, what will be your reaction if the new administration asks that the peace process be accelerated and that the United States be a direct third party involved in the negotiations?

[Rabin] I believe that peace cannot be imposed. We cannot impose peace on another party. By the same token, the other party cannot impose peace on us. With all due respect to the United States and the international community, they have no right to impose peace on the Arabs or the Israelis. Peace and the idea of imposing it by any side are two contradictory things. I believe that without a direct meeting at the highest level between the two sides, real peace cannot be achieved. The others, especially the United States, can assist in this process.

[Shalabi] Mr. Prime Minister, in 1967 you were the chief of staff when the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were occupied. Do you regret it now? I mean, what is your feeling about it?

[Rabin] I can tell you the real story. In 1967, after Egypt expelled the UN emergency forces and blocked the Strait of Tiran, the Israeli Government ordered the Israeli Army to limit its military activities to just against Egypt. Furthermore, the Israeli Government informed Jordan and Syria that if they did not intervene in the war, Israel would not carry out any military operation against them. This message was passed to Jordan and Syria. The United States even gave assurance that it would ensure that Israel would not act against Jordan. But Jordan decided to enter the war, which was imposed on us. They began shelling Jerusalem. We did not move. They even sent their Air Force to bomb the area of Tel Aviv. I was not allowed as a chief of staff to adopt any military measure against Jordan. Therefore—without discussing the reasons which prompted Jordan to enter the war—if Jordan had not initiated military operations against us, there would have been no problems then.

[Sweeney] Mr. Prime Minister, I believe that we are running out of time. We would like to give you the opportunity to briefly address a message to Arabic-speaking people around the world.

[Rabin] Well, I was born here in Jerusalem and have spent most of my life here. I am now 70. I have experienced all the sad and happy events in Arab-Israeli relations. I think too many mistakes have occurred in the past. The time has come to find a settlement to the existing conflict. The Arab world is very large and includes more than 100 million people. But Israel is a small country of 5 million people, including more than 4 million Jews and about 1 million non-Jews. Our country occupies a very small space on the Middle East map. Let us live together. I believe if there is goodwill on both sides, and one does not try to undermine the right of the other, such as the right of existence, it is possible to reach a peaceful solution. I believe that 1993 will provide a unique chance for the start of a solution to our problems in a reasonable way. Let us not miss this opportunity, as happened in the past. We proved in the past that it is possible to achieve peace and to maintain it. If Egypt, which is the largest Arab country in the Arab world and a country that has led all the past wars with Israel, was able to reach the conclusion that the only way to peace is to avoid war and conflict, it is possible to achieve peace. I believe peace serves the real interests of the Egyptian and Israeli peoples. The same thing can be said regarding the Palestinians and the other Arab states. Peace depends on both the Arab and Israeli sides. The time has come to put an end to the existing conflict.

[Shalabi] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much. Thank you, John.

State Tries To Postpone UN Discussion of Deportees

TA2201102093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Dafna Vardi, and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Israel has relayed a diplomatic message to the United States asking that the UN Security Council [UNSC] postpone its discussion on the deportees, scheduled for tomorrow, until after the High Court of Justice [HCJ] concludes its proceedings on Monday, 25 January. Yesterday it was learned that 10 more Palestinians were mistakenly deported to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

A political source announced yesterday that a Defense Ministry examination has revealed that, in addition to the 16 mistakenly deported who have not been returned yet, 10 other Palestinians were deported by mistake. The 10 had been awaiting trial, and were deported contrary to an instruction which originated at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] chief of staff's bureau.

Prime Minister Rabin made it clear yesterday that he will take no steps before the HCJ ruling. Senior Labor and Meretz ministers have recently expressed their hope that the HCJ would rescue Israel from the serious political distress it has found itself in following the deportations.

A senior political source has estimated that if the HCJ rejects the petitions it is debating, the government would decide on an interim solution, offering a gradual return of the deportees: Since the deportees were not given their individual deportation terms when the deportations were executed, the deportation periods will be slated for several months; and at the same time, the elderly, ill, or mistakenly deported will be returned at once.

The recent idea that the deportees be transferred to the security zone is not acceptable to the prime minister, and there is doubt whether it would satisfy the UNSC. The United Nations views the security zone as sovereign Lebanese territory. Moving the deportees there will, therefore, not be regarded as returning them to their country of origin. [passage omitted]

Last week, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem instructed Israel's embassies in countries which are UNSC members to work for attaining their support for a postponement of the council's discussion of the issue of the deportees until after the HCJ ruling is issued.

Last night, Jerusalem reacted with a feeling of relief to the EC Parliament announcement of its condemnation of Israel on the issue of the deportees. The statement, condemning both Israel for the deportation and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] for its acts of terrorism, was preceded by a proposal to impose sanctions on Israel. The resolution the EC Parliament passed yesterday followed a compromise attained through the efforts of Israel's Permanent Mission to the EC, headed by Ambassador Mordekhay Drori.

The EC Parliament hinted at the possible impact the deportations might have on economic relations between Israel and the EC by recommending that the deportee issue be in the background of the discussion on EC-Israel cooperation, to be held in Brussels on 1 February. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will appear before the EC Foreign Ministers' Council as part of the efforts to promote the signature of the financial protocols between Israel and the EC.

In Jerusalem it was said yesterday that, despite the differences, Israel welcomes the continuation of the dialogue and the promotion of all the goals shared with Europe, including the peace process.

UN Envoy Concludes Meetings; No Progress Noted

TA2101173393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report on meeting between UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, including interview with Gharekhan by correspondent Jack Katzenell on 21 January; place not given—recorded; Gharekhan and Katzenell speak in English]

[Text] UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan will leave for New York tomorrow, after holding a tete-a-tete meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening. It appears that no progress has been made so far on the deportees affair. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports live from the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, where the meeting has just ended:

[Raz] Everyone is waiting for the ruling of the High Court of Justice. Until that is made, there is nothing to discuss. The Israeli Government has made its decision, and it is binding.

The meeting the two held alone lasted only some 40 minutes. It was termed a concluding discussion, before Gharekhan leaves for New York.

[Begin recording] [Gharekhan] We have discussed everything. We have concluded our discussions, and I shall report to the secretary general.

[Katzenell] Do you think the Security Council will be prepared to wait until after the High Court decision here on the issue?

[Gharekhan] I cannot say anything. I do not speak for the Security Council. I can only speak for myself as the emissary of the secretary general. I will report to the secretary general.

[Raz] When will the secretary general submit his report?

[Gharekhan] That I do not know, but I think the report is overdue, it looks like. So, I won't be surprised if the report is submitted very, very soon.

[Raz] What is your impression after the meeting, your last meeting with the prime minister?

[Gharekhan] I don't give out impressions like that. [end recording]

Peres Says Government Will Abide by Deportee Ruling

TA2001104293 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday told a closed meeting that a High Court of Justice ruling to repeal the deportation decision would be "very bad for the government, but very good for Israel's foreign relations."

Diplomatic sources in Israel reported that in a meeting with EC ambassadors, Mr. Peres explained the reasons Israel is waiting for the court ruling and said that whatever is decided will be implemented by the government. Peres said that if the High Court approves the expulsion decision, one of the possible solutions will be the deportees' absorption by a third country, in which they will be able to move about freely, while he stressed the fact that the deportation is for two years and not forever. [passage omitted]

In his meeting with the ambassadors, Peres reiterated the request that their countries not take steps against Israel and not support any such initiative in the Security Council. Peres said that Israel will not under any circumstances be able to return the deportees as a result of international pressure, and that tough actions against it would be detrimental to the peace process.

In the meantime, the differences between the International Red Cross [IRC] and the United Nations [UN] over humanitarian aid to the deportees continues, with the UN claiming that "we are not a humanitarian organization" and therefore cannot cooperate with the IRC on that issue. Late last week, Israel permitted the IRC to extend medical aid to the deportees, as well as to return those expelled by mistake. [passage omitted]

Demonstrations Held at Border To Support Deportees

TA2101163293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] A demonstration at the Rosh Haniqra border crossing, with the participation of hundreds of people, mostly Arabs, is now over. The demonstrators attempted to cross the border into south Lebanon to deliver supplies to the deportees. Policemen and soldiers prevented them from crossing the border and the demonstrators held a rally at the border crossing, waved slogans, and shouted epithets against the government.

Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who led the demonstrators, said that Arabs from the territories would continue to come to the border crossing to try and deliver supplies to their brethren.

Rabin Permits Mail Delivery in Deportee Camp

TA2101205693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Israel is making another humanitarian gesture on the deportee affair. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has permitted the International Red Cross to deliver over 100 letters from the deportees to their families in the territories.

Prime Minister Rabin has also permitted the deportees' families to send letters back to the deportee encampment in south Lebanon. This was reported by our military affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik.

Rabin on Measures To Fight Terrorists

TA2101191793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel will take every legal measure to fight terror and to prevent it from disrupting the peace process. The prime minister spoke this afternoon to international leaders of WIZO [Women's International Zionist Organization] in Tel Aviv.

[Begin Rabin recording] You know that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad of the Palestinians in the territories are not only killers, murderers, but their purpose in killing Israelis and

Palestinians is only one: to end any hope for a political, peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. For them, the jihad, the holy war against Israel, is the only means by which to achieve their goal to eliminate—which is going to be only an illusion—to eliminate Israel. We have the right to take the measures against those who do not only want to kill Israelis and Palestinians, but try their best to kill the peace. We have the right to take the measures that are allowed by our law, and not accepting that by doing so we endanger the peace negotiations, as those who participate in the terror cannot say that because they are participating in terror they prevent the continuation of the peace negotiations. [end recording]

Cabinet Approves Rabinovich as Envoy to U.S.

TA1701170393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Report by Natan Gutman]

[Text] The deportee issue was raised in today's weekly cabinet session. Meretz Minister Yosi Sarid called for permitting the deportees to enter the security zone if they express a desire to do so. Sarid believes that would improve the condition of the deportees, as well as Israel's international standing. Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, who is close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, opposed such a move, but the issue was not opened for discussion. After the meeting, we heard Ministers Sarid and Shahal on that.

[Begin recording] [Sarid] The pressure will grow, and that is precisely the reason that the government must do everything it can to untie the bind. I think the government has ideas.

[Shahal] When the government makes a decision, it does so after holding a debate and after taking into account all sides. We made the decision we did because it was the right decision and remains so, because it was necessary and remains so, and because we are discussing a group of people who provided an ideological and organizational infrastructure for terrorist actions aimed at killing the peace as well as people. [end recording]

Two other issues were raised in the cabinet session. First, the appointment of Elyaqim Rubinstein as cabinet secretary. Prime Minister Rabin raised the proposal to extend Rubinstein's term. It should be recalled that the appointment has so far been temporary and had to be extended every three months. The cabinet has now approved his appointment as permanent secretary. All the ministers, except the four Meretz ministers, supported the move. The Meretz ministers said they have nothing against Rubinstein personally, but the fact that he remains in the job implies that no change has taken place since the Shamir government.

Another appointment approved by the cabinet was that of Itamar Rabinovich. State Attorney Dorit Beinisch suggested that the cabinet vote again on his appointment as ambassador in Washington so that the High Court of Justice cannot claim that the government made the decision before it had all the information on the penalty fine Rabinovich paid the income tax. The cabinet once again voted unanimously in favor of the appointment.

Rubinstein Suggests Holding Peace Talks in Gaza

TA2101122893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of Israel's delegation to political negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians, would like to pursue political negotiations during the delegations' stay in Israel as well as in Washington. Today the delegation headed by him is touring the Gaza Strip. They have visited Qatif Bloc and refugee rehabilitation and industrial development projects. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from Gaza:

[Begin recording] [Raz] The delegation came to look at the physical manifestations of clauses debated in the Washington negotiations. Should not the opportunity be used to sit with Palestinian delegates who live in Gaza anyway? Elyaqim Rubinstein shares this desire:

[Rubinstein] The Israeli side would be making no concession by holding work sessions in fields which are part of the negotiations. Why take experts and officials to Washington when meetings can be held here? I regret to say we have not received a reply to this.

[Raz] And no date for another round of talks in Washington has been set either.

The tour began in the Qatif Bloc, where land and the autonomy police powers were discussed. [passage omitted] The most impressive part of the tour was the refugee rehabilitation project at the Jabalyah camp. It should be remembered the camp is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. In the framework of the project, some 500 five-story apartment houses are being built. Contractors will build the outer walls, and every family will build the inside of its apartment. This is a joint enterprise of the Civil Administration and a local Arab contractor. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin Convenes Forum on Economic Situation in Gaza

TA2101054993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpts] In his capacity as defense minister, Yitzhaq Rabin is today convening a forum of military officers and economic experts to deal with the problem of the Gaza Strip. In an appearance before the Knesset yesterday, the prime minister said trying to improve the situation in the Gaza Strip is part of the same policy that also included the deportation of some 400 Islamic fundamentalist extremists last month. David Ze'ev reports:

Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the military-economic forum will try to grapple with what he told the Knesset plenum is an economic time bomb, a major cause for the worsening security situation in the Gaza Strip. The prime minister conceded the economic hardships are caused primarily by the Israeli closure orders preventing Gazans from going to work, but a major reason Israel is forced to take such steps, Rabin said, are the activities of Islamic extremists. Referring to and again defending last month's mass deportation, the prime minister said it was important to get them out. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rabin said the Israeli moves on the military and economic fronts are ways of preventing the extremists from gaining control over the Palestinian population. He repeated the Israeli call for international financial assistance to the Arabs of the Strip. Unlike the previous government of Yitzhaq Shamir, Rabin says he does not care whether or not the financial aid from the outside is coordinated with the Israeli Government.

Minister Doubts Israel To Give Up Golan

TA1901191493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Report by Yo'av Aviv]

[Excerpt] Looking at the Golan mountains this morning, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said it would be some time before the Jordan Valley local council became a border checkpoint with Syria again. We must not draw rash conclusions regarding the negotiations with the Syrians, he said. Progress has been made, but....

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording] With all due respect to every minister's statement, I can tell you one thing: We are in the midst of negotiations with Syria, and all that has been achieved to date is openness, readiness to broach substantive issues, and readiness to exchange positions and position papers, but nothing beyond that. And even if we do make progress, I do not see Israel giving up its hold on the Golan Heights. Thus, anyone who believes we are about to be in a situation in which the Syrians regain the Jordan River is simply deluding himself and misleading the public. [end recording] [passage omitted]

IDF on U.S. Human Rights Report on Territories

TA2001060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The U.S. State Department tonight published its annual report on human rights in the territories held by Israel. [passage omitted]

We have the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's reaction to the report.

Official military sources note that the IDF's special units operating in the territories carry out daily operations against wanted armed men responsible for attacks, including murders of Israelis and Arabs. The units operate under tough conditions and their lives are constantly endangered while maintaining the rules on conducting operations and opening fire approved by the military judge advocate and the state attorney. The aim of the unit's soldiers is to stop the wanted men. Shooting at wanted men is approved only when life is endangered. Fire is aimed at hitting, or in the case of detaining a suspicious person, is meant to detain the person and not kill him. That is the reaction of official military sources.

Confiscating Arab Land for Housing Recommended

TA2001095293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jan 93 pp A1, 8

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpts] The Jerusalem Municipality has suggested to the Construction and Housing Ministry the establishment of a new Jewish neighborhood between Pisgat Ze'ev and French Hill on some 800 dunam, most of it Arab-owned fallow land which will be confiscated.

The plan was presented to Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, and he transferred it to the finance minister for his signature. As far as is known, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has not yet signed a seizure order for the land, which includes 120 dunam of Jewish-owned land.

The last time Arab-owned private land was confiscated in Jerusalem for the establishment of Jewish neighborhoods was in 1980. Some 4,000 dunam were then confiscated between the neighborhoods of Neve Ya'aqov and French Hill, on which Pisgat Ze'ev West, Pisgat Ze'ev East, and Pisgat Ze'ev North, in which some 40,000 Jews will be living within two years, were established. In the wake of the move, Israel was denounced by the Security Council and the United States, and it set off an international uproar.

The area the Jerusalem Municipality now proposes to seize is situated south of the area confiscated in 1980. Unofficially, it was reported that the initiative followed illegal Arab building in the area, and concern about the formation of an Arab wedge between French Hill and Pisgat Ze'ev. The plan is aimed at creating Jewish urban contiguity in the area. [passage omitted]

Avraham Kahila, head of the Planning Department in Jerusalem Town Hall, said: "This is fallow land, both Arab and Jewish owned, and the city has a vital and important need for it. We cannot leave the eastern gateway to Jerusalem wide open, therefore we recommended this move. There is a readiness in principle by the Construction and Housing Ministry to implement the step. The person who has to sign the papers now is the finance minister. It is a pity the matter was published prematurely."

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 20 January in a page A9 report by Nadav Shragay, adds: "Jerusalem

Mayor Teddy Kollek announced yesterday that he has reservations about the plan to seize lands now in an area between Pisgat Ze'ev and French Hill. In the wake of yesterday's HA'ARETZ report on the plan worked out by the municipality, Kollek said that it is an old plan which had been raised during the previous government. 'There is no urgency on the matter right now. The political situation is not ripe for carrying out such confiscations,' he said."]

Media Speculates on Future of Clinton Administration

Columnist Skeptical About Change

JN2201113493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 24

[Khalil al-Swahiri article from the "Seven Days" column: "Half Optimist, Half Pessimist!"]

[Text] Since the United States is governed by institutions and not by individuals; since its decisionmaking is manipulated most of the time by concealed Jewish will; since most of those who surround the new U.S. President are either Zionists or Zionized; since those Arabs who guard the oil and their allies who squandered billions at the feet of Bush to destroy Iraq are still in their positions and are able, to a large extent, to vitiate international or U.S. decisions through bribes; and because U.S. and Zionist interests have not changed overnight, I am not optimistic that matters for Iraq and the Arabs will be much different just because one U.S. Administration has left and another has assumed power.

However, in spite of this, I am not that pessimistic because the former president—the murderer, the rancorous killer—definitely is not like the current President, whose hands have not been tarnished, as yet, with one drop of Arab blood.

I am not pessimistic because the same causes which brought Bush's downfall are those which made Bill Clinton succeed, and this will bring about a difference in both approach and priorities, even if those who surround Clinton are the same ones who surrounded Bush.

I am not pessimistic because the U.S.-Western dialogue during the war criminal's era, a dialogue carried out with missiles and aircraft, has nothing to do with this age and belongs in the 19th century, as Jean-Pierre Chevenement said, when the colonialist forces used to address people in Third World countries with guns and artillery; a dialogue the West would not have dared to hold with such overt barbarity, even though it harbors an inveterate hatred for Arabs, had it not been for the unparalleled personal hatred of George Bush, the president of the mightiest and most oppressive Western power in this unipolar era.

However, I am not optimistic on this point because I am certain that the deeply rooted Western hatred of Arabs and Muslims will not change or be dampened by the departure of a hawk or the advent of a dove, assuming that Clinton is a dove.

Even if we are to believe that Bush's vendetta against Saddam Husayn is behind all these crimes, what could have prevented the West, under Bush's United States, from stopping the racial mass extermination of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina? What has prevented and continues to prevent the West's United Nations from striking at Israel with a rose and not a missile, God forbid, to force it to implement any of the UN resolutions, even if it is only Resolution 799?

For all these reasons, I do not join this excessive wave of exuberant optimism as to Bush's departure and the advent of Clinton, though I do rejoice at Bush's demise. Still, at the same time I am not one of those who voices total pessimism, because U.S. decisionmaking has been governed, and will continue to be for a long time, by Jewish desires if not Jewish orders. Those who will live will see this. In any case, wishes are of no avail so long as the Arab state of affairs remains as it is, and so long as Arab oil continues to be squandered and its revenues used to conspire against this nation, break its will, and humiliate it in front of all the nations on earth.

Clinton Urged To Match Iraqi Cease-Fire

JN2201091093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 93 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Why Do They Not Reciprocate Iraq's Initiative?"]

[Text] We in Jordan and the Arab region still hope that President Clinton's administration will understand and respond positively to the Iraqi cease-fire initiative and will reply in kind to Iraq's good intentions.

We cannot understand the reasons and motives behind the newest U.S. raid on northern Iraq yesterday at a time when we, and the entire international community, expected a relaxation in the crisis during Clinton's term in office. This is especially so since President Clinton had pledged an end to the era of deadlock and drift, and said he would give priority to the policy of dialogue and quiet diplomacy before resorting to force.

There is official European and Russian admission that the air and missile aggression carried out under former President George Bush against Iraq exceeded the UN mandate.

Official and popular Arab, regional, and international quarters have welcomed and voiced satisfaction at President Clinton's statements on U.S. foreign policy in the new era on the day he moved into the White House. This is so because the people in this vital part of the world have become exhausted by the ongoing disputes and wars, and are now looking for security, stability, and a just peace. From this premise, our Arab nation, namely the Jordanian people under His Majesty King Husayn, have sensed that President Clinton's announcement that his term in office puts an end to the policy of deadlock and drift is in line with their aspirations and hopes.

We must point out here that former President George Bush's policy was governed by drift, rashness, the spirit of adventure, and an inclination to wage destructive wars, especially since President Bush found in the Arabian Gulf in general, and in Kuwait in particular, those to encourage him to opt for war instead of quiet diplomacy and the peaceful settlement of crises.

In any case, we wish that President Clinton will view the Iraqi initiative in a serious, responsible manner and will respond to it positively.

As for those Kuwaitis who cried and were frightened at Bush's departure, feeling lost and orphaned after he left, they must stop beating the drums of war against Iraq and seeking the foreigner's help to vent their black hatred.

Those who antagonize their brothers and nation will never feel secure and stable.

'Dawn of Clinton's Era' Viewed

JN2101131493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The End of Bush's Term and the Dawn of Clinton's Era"]

[Text] Amidst the U.S. celebrations to inaugurate President-elect Bill Clinton, we cannot but join the Americans and all the people of the world in hoping for an end to an era tarnished by internal scandal, outside war, and economic failure, and hence the dawn of a new era that promises to defend freedom, democracy, and human rights in the four corners of the world.

There is no doubt that the people of this region were the majority among those honored with the end of the era of George Bush, who, during the last 15 minutes of his presidency, chose to remind us of the ugly face of the policy of force, to bring back to us all bitter memories, and even to open our wounds that did not heal from his unjust war against the fraternal Iraqi people.

Henceforth, our hopes are legitimate and our happiness is logical when it comes to George Bush's departure and the advent of his successor, who promises the world to adopt policies based on the principles of freedom, justice, and human dignity. These are true and legitimate demands by all people of the world, especially the people of this region—a region considered by George Bush's policies as petroleum territory, to which no consideration of basic human rights for freedom and democracy is given.

Although we already realize that the new President may not be a complete opposite of the former president, we still hope for an end to the personal nature of the enmity harbored by George Bush and the spirit of vengeance which characterized his policies toward the people of this region, especially toward the people of Iraq who have been under siege for some 30 months.

We congratulate the President of the United States and wish him success in his mission as leader of the biggest and wealthiest country in the world, and in living up to his great promises in making human rights and democracy two main pillars of future U.S. foreign policy. At the same time, we hope that during the new U.S. President's term, the Middle East will witness a just and comprehensive peace, which all former U.S. leaders failed to achieve. Furthermore, we hope for an end to the chapter of enmity and hatred opened by former President Bush, not just against Iraq, but against the Arab and Islamic people as well.

Tasks of Clinton Cabinet Considered

JN2101183093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jan 93 p 19

[Article by Ya'qub Jabir: "The Clinton Cabinet—Limited Experience and Urgent Tasks"]

[Text] Bill Clinton has chosen his cabinet staff to represent all sectors and states, thereby achieving the diversity that he is in dire need of. The Clinton cabinet consists of 16 secretaries, including four blacks and a woman, who is the first in the history of the United States to assume the post of the attorney general. His cabinet also consists of men from the industrial sector and professional politicians. Some of them, however, do not have sufficient experience and knowledge in the field of which they will be in charge. There are also people who join the cabinet for the first time and who will face a difficult task represented by running a governmental department in which bureaucracy prevails.

All the staff of the Clinton cabinet will face on the first day urgent problems which they should solve. The most prominent problems emerge in the agricultural sector. Clinton chose 39-year-old black Representative Mike Espy, to be in charge of 113,000 employees and a ministry whose budget amounts to $60 billion. When he accepted the post, Espy spoke about the need to make changes in his department where the number of employees has greatly increased when the number of farmers has decreased.

Espy represents an area which is considered one of the poorest agricultural areas and he concentrated his efforts in Congress on agricultural issues. Observers believe that Espy is an efficient person and is aware of some of the agricultural issues which are waiting for solutions. However, the ongoing conflict between the United States and the EC on agricultural products and Russia's failure to repay its debts in exchange for receiving grain from the United States are two issues with which Espy is not familiar. Therefore, analysts believe that Espy will be facing a difficult task in dealing with these two issues.

Representative Les Aspin, who was nominated for the Defense Department, will also face a difficult task represented by reducing defense expenditures which had been largely reduced. Aspin, who chaired the Armed Services Committee, is fully aware of the Defense Department affairs. However, he is—before anything else—a politician, and he has to run a department whose budget amounts to $281 billion, that is more than the gross national product of South Korea.

The Democrats are seeking to secure more funds to double spend on social issues and reduce the deficit in the federal budget. Therefore, they are very eager to make a large reduction in the defense budget. This reduction comes after other large reductions in the defense budget, which led to a decline in the morale of the armed forces personnel. This is why Aspin will be in a difficult situation when he finds that he has to go along with the wish of the Democrats to introduce more reductions to the defense budget.

As for Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena, the former mayor of Denver City, he has no prior experience in this important sector which is facing pressing problems, including the fact that one third of all U.S. airlines have either stopped operations or are on their way to bankruptcy. Also, the routes linking cities and railways need complete overhauls. The secretary himself admits that all means of transportation in the country are facing problems.

Secretary of Commerce Michael Kantor also lacks experience and know-how. Kantor, who led Clinton's election campaign, is a lawyer who has no experience in foreign trade. Meanwhile, Clinton will have a fierce competition with U.S. trade rivals abroad.

Perhaps the only person who has the experience is Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was the second man at the State Department during Jimmy Carter's tenure. But Christopher is also facing difficult tasks to run foreign affairs at a time when the world is witnessing radical changes that require shrewdness, patience, and elegant diplomacy.

The Clinton government has a variety of people, but perhaps it has not achieved the balance required in a new era that needs experienced staff to run large institutions facing pressing, urgent tasks.

Clinton Urged Away From Bush Policy

JN2101194993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jan 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Arabs and Clinton"]

[Text] Clinton swore an oath before Congress yesterday as the 42d president of the United States to inherit a legacy, weighted with negative elements left behind by his predecessor former President Bush—a legacy which hurt America's reputation in the region and elsewhere in the world and which harmed its status with the Western alliance itself. This was clearly expressed by the French foreign minister who said that Washington had overstepped international resolutions in its shelling of Baghdad last Sunday and by observers who voiced their belief that Bush handed Clinton a policy that is based on a double standard and that enjoys no confidence, especially in the Middle East.

Although the new U.S. President was hasty when he announced, before assuming his office, that he supported the recent Bush-sponsored aggression against Iraq, there is still a chance for President Clinton to wash his hands of the dirt of Bush's policy toward Iraq by adopting a new policy responding to Baghdad's positive call for a dialogue between itself and Washington. However, the possibility of Clinton taking advantage of this chance remains weak and should not lead to baseless hopes, especially since the new U.S. President asked the teams that organized aggression against Iraq to remain in their posts.

It is good to recall that the current Arab situation, one of the worst that the Arab nation has so far experienced, will not encourage the new U.S. Administration to improve its policy toward the Arabs. This means that it is wrong to wait for any positive development in that policy as long as the Arab situation continues as it is. It is also important to recall that Jordan has long called for getting rid of that situation and building a new one that is based on mutual confidence among brothers and can totally overcome that negative effect of the Gulf war.

It is time for the Arabs to realize that American and non-American practices against them depend on their own practices toward each other and that they should not pin hopes on Clinton or others. Instead, they should pin these hopes on themselves and also epitomize them in their high performance to restore the unity of their ranks and in their ability to wrest the respect they deserve, regardless of the nature of the world order around them.

Clinton Policies Viewed

JN2201095893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jan 93 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Toward a More Just and Objective U.S. Policy"]

[Text] We do not want to view yesterday's limited U.S. provocation of Iraq as a clue to the new U.S. policy under President Bill Clinton, or as an appropriate headline through which one can read the current new phase in Washington.

Although we do not expect a major change in U.S. policy in the Middle East or a prompt profound change in Washington's way of viewing this region's issues and diverse problems, we adhere to that minimum degree of optimism expressed by many here who saw George Bush leave the White House amid signs of failure, frustration, and defeat. In the meantime, we will continue to follow with wide-open eyes and minds every movement, position, or statement made in the U.S. capital relating to the affairs of this region, whose foreseeable future hinges upon the way the new U.S. President deals with the Middle East's diverse issues and problems.

Accordingly, the peoples of this region, the majority of whom do not enjoy the breeze of freedom and democracy, will look forward with some degree of hope to President Clinton's declared commitments and strong pledges to base America's foreign policy on the principles of justice, democracy, and respect for human rights.

It is with the same meager amount of optimism that we view President Clinton's top assistants, particularly in the State Department, as they comprise several free Democrats who previously worked with U.S. President Jimmy Carter and were influenced by his deep sense of justice and respect for human rights.

In view of all this, it is only natural for us to view the missile a U.S. aircraft fired at a battery in northern Iraq as an isolated incident that does not give a sufficient clue to the presence of a U.S. policy characterized by all those hateful qualities which marked this policy under former President George Bushu

The peoples of this region have suffered a great deal during the term of a spiteful U.S. president whose Middle East foreign policy was marked by double standards, loss of insight, and intense selfishness. These peoples, who are aspiring for freedom, justice, peace, and dignity, will continue to hope that President Clinton adopts a more fair, just, and objective U.S. policy toward all world issues and all the confiscated rights of peoples in Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and elsewhere in the Third World.

Parties Receive Legal Recognition

DPPJ Legalized

JN1701072193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 93 pp 1,2

[Report by Maryam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ) became the country's first leftist party to gain legal acceptance Saturday when Minister of Interior Jawdat al-Subul issued a licence to the group.

The legalisation of the DPPJ came one month after three other leftist parties were denied legal status by the government. The secretary general of the party, 'Ali 'Amir, told reporters that he believed that recent meetings between senior government officials and leaders of the main left-wing parties had borne fruit and that the legalisation of his party was the first step in a series that would mend fences between the government and Jordanian leftists.

"We believe that the left and the Ministry of Interior can come to an understanding in this age of democracy," Mr. 'Amir told a press conference at his party's headquarters in al-'Abdali.

The legalisation of the Jordanian Communist Party as well as the Ba'athist Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) were a prerequisite for a true democratic system in Jordan, Mr. 'Amir added.

"We are overjoyed at the news that we received from Mr. al-Subul today," said Mr. 'Amir after being informed of the Ministry of Interior decision to grant DPPJ legal status. "We will continue however, to press for legal recognition of the other parties, that were denied this legal status."

Mr. 'Amir said that the "on-the-surface" things that the Ministry of Interior was objecting to vis-a-vis symbols and names used by the leftist parties could be "adjusted."

In what may be a precedent in the compromise between a leftist party and the government, the DPPJ deleted from its manifesto any reference to changing Jordan's political system into a socialist one. Previously the change of Jordan's political system to a socialist one was among the main objectives of the DPPJ.

"Our aim is to create an environment where social justice rules and economic disparties become nonexistent," said Mr. 'Amir. "The reference of the word socialism is not necessary as long as the ideals are embedded in the party's charter."

Left-wing political observers had predicted that as long as a direct reference to socialism remains in the charter of any party the party will face troubles in gaining legal recognition.

'Isa Madanat, a member of the Lower House and head of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, said Friday that the minister of interior had personally told him that a deletion of the term "socialist" from his party's name and charter would guarantee the group legal acceptance.

Mr. Madanat, contacted by the JORDAN TIMES, said that such a move on the part of his party was "out of the question."

Mr. 'Amir was among the five leftist leaders who met with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir in the home of Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali al-Suhaymat Dec. 27 in an initial meeting between the government and leftist leaders in an attempt to mend fences over the government's rfusal to legalise the left-wing groups.

Mr. 'Ali said that follow-up meetings between a special government committee and the leftist leaders helped make Saturday's recognition possible.

Asked if his party was requested to make any changes in its charter, Mr. 'Ali said: "We were told that our party's symbol resembles that of some other parties' and thus we altered it without officially being asked to do so; it was a small gesture on our part. The change was symbolic and we felt that it would not attack the essence of our policies and believes."

Mr. 'Amir as well as several members of his party are former members of the Palestine National Council as well as members of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

While initially an ardent supporter of DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah, Mr. 'Amir's sympathy swayed to the breakaway leadership of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who set up a renegade DFLP faction in Tunisia.

Mr. 'Amir and other members of the DPPJ all resigned from the PNC and the DFLP committees before applying for independent party status in Jordan.

In reference to the past links between party cadre and the Palestinian parties in Tunis and Damascus: Mr. 'Amir said: "We are and will remain organisationally and financially distinct and independent from any party anywhere. We have and will continue to have contacts with a variety of political parties inside Jordan and all over the Arab World."

The DPPJ supports the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace talks in principle and is considering joining the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Association (JANDA), the largest alliance of left-wing and pan-Arab parties in the Kingdom.

Communist Party To Receive License

JN1701095193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jan 93 pp 1, 22

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul announced that it was decided to issue a license to the Jordanian Communist Party.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Subul said this decision has come following dialogue conducted between the ministerial committee, which His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister, ordered to be formed under chairmanship of Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education, and party officials. These officials emphasized that they are fully committed to the Constitution, the National Charter, and the Parties Law on the basis of political pluralism which gives freedom to everybody.

Answering a question on licensing the Ba'th and Hashd [the People's Democratic Party] parties, al-Subul said a meeting was held with officials from both parties which continued until late last night, and the ministerial committee asked them to provide some assurances. They promised to provide these assurance, therefore, the decision not to give licenses to the two parties will be reconsidered. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Arab Socialist Party Accepted

JN1901071493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Maryam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Ba'th Arab Socialist Party Monday became the seventh party to receive legal recognition in the Kingdom under the new political parties law which took effect on Sept. 1, 1992.

The legalistation of the Ba'th party cemented a warming relationship between the government of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir and Jordan's traditional left-wing and pan-Arab parties.

Relations had been cool since the Ministry of Interior refused to grant legal status to three left-wing parties in December. One of the three parties was the Ba'th Party.

The three appealed the government's decision at the Higher Court of Justice but dropped the action when a dialogue was opened between leftist leaders and senior members of the government in late December.

Minister of Interior Jawdat al-Subul had stressed that he feared a lack of financial and organisational independence on the part of the parties as one of the reasons behind the ministry's refusal to grant them licences.

All three of the parties concerned were leftist in ideology and had been politically active for up to 30 years.

Asked if he had to make any concessions to the government, the secretary general of the party, Ahmad al-Najdawi, said: "We changed the name of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party in Jordan to the Jordanian Ba'th Arab Socialist Party."

The Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ) became the first of the leftist parties to gain legal recognition at the beginning of the week. The DPPJ said that after holding several meetings with senior members of the Cabinet the party leadership agreed to delete a reference to the building of a socialist society as one of its primary aims.

Only the Jordanian Communist Party, one of the oldest political groups in the country, appears to have gained legal recognition without compromising its socialist ideals.

"We have vowed to abide by the Constitution and the National Charter and that does not contradict with the social justice and economic wellbeing of society," said party head Ya'qub Zayadin after his party rewceived legal status Sunday.

Deportees Stage March on Lebanese Army Position

Israel, Militia Reinforce Positions

NC2201091693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] REUTER cites eyewitnesses as saying that Israeli forces fired four shells on a hill overlooking the Palestinian deportees' camp after midnight.

Security sources report that the Israeli-backed Agent Lahd militia has reinforced its positions at the Zummarayya crossing and brought in two tanks and an armored personnel carrier. The sources added that the Israelis also reinforced a neighboring position with two armored personnel carriers.

The Palestinian deportees started marching from their camp this morning toward the Lebanese Army roadblock in Marj al-Zuhur in support of the Lebanese Government's firm position and to show that they refuse to be removed to any country but Palestine.

Al-Rantisi Describes March

NC2201112493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] This morning Palestinian deportees marched from their camp to the Lebanese Army position at Marj al-Zuhur. Among the placards carried by the Palestinians was one reading: We call on Arab countries, rulers, and nations to press for our immediate return to our homeland.

At one point on their march, the deportees stopped to listen to a speech by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, who addressed the deportees saying: We tell the Lebanese Government and people that we support your position and decision. Do not cave in under the criminal pressures. Your sovereignty is indisputable and your decisions must be respected. Do not listen to anyone.

Shaykh al-Shami added: Today, as we stage this demonstration, we know that the Arab regimes are the weak link in the struggle against the Israeli regime. The position of Arab regimes is frail and fragile. Yesterday we heard a Palestinian leader tell Rabin: We want to make the peace of the courageous. We ask that leader: What courage is this when we are being killed here, cold and unsheltered? He speaks about courage. Is courage becoming another word for defeatism and capitulation?

Addressing Arab nations, al-Shami said: We call on you in the name of God, history, and the pain of our children not to retreat under international pressure or to accept less than our return to Palestine. History will judge you.

The deportees continued their march toward Marj al-Zuhur but the Lebanese Army stopped them 200 yards from the Army roadblock, where the deportees performed their Friday prayers before resuming their demonstration.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees, said: Last night the nearby hills came under shelling from the occupation forces and the camp was illuminated by flares. The Israelis also engaged in other activities in the vicinity, because they thought our march would be toward Zummarayya. But let me tell you this: The march toward Zummarayya will not be announced in advance. It will take the Jews by surprise.

Today, al-Rantisi said, we prepared messages to send to Arab leaders, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and Butrus-Ghali to enlist their support for the Lebanese position. Our position remains one of refusing to go to any Arab or foreign country. We call on Arab countries to take strong measures and to exert pressure until Israel complies with UN Security Council Resolution 799. Al-Rantisi added: Our march toward Marj al-Zuhur today was to express solidarity with the Lebanese position and to reiterate our own.

Messages Given to UN, Others

NC2201141593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, spoke to journalists after performing the Friday prayer. He said: We staged this march in solidarity with Lebanon to declare to the world that we will never accept any resolution circumventing Security Council Resolution 799. Our firm position calls for a return to Palestine.

He added: We will not agree to enter Lebanon or any Arab or foreign country. The only option we have chosen is to return to Palestine no matter the cost. I have messages for President Ilyas al-Hirawi: You must stand up in the face of all the pressures on Lebanon and we will not agree to enter even if the door opens. We have a firm cause—the return to Palestine.

He went on: I have another message for the Lebanese people, who sympathized with our cause. We salute them and value their honorable stand against the Zionist deceit, continuing aggressions, and recurring deportations. I also have messages for every Arab amir, president, and king, urging them to stand by Lebanon and do their utmost to pressure Israel and the Security Council to implement Resolution 799. Even if the Arabs used force, the entire Arab nation is today humiliated by the deportation of Palestinians.

He said: We have messages for the permanent member states of the Security Council: The Security Council must preserve its dignity and prestige, must not use double standards, and must apply the resolution on Israel even by force.

Al-Rantisi added: And a message for Butrus Butrus-Ghali: You must fulfill your promise and hold a Security Council meeting to impose sanctions on Israel and force it to implement Resolution 799.

Al-Rantisi handed the messages to Ahmad 'Abd-al-Latif, Marj al-Zuhur headman, who conveyed them to the Lebanese Army.

The deportees then headed back to their camp.

Al-Hariri Said To Agree to UK Aid, Transport

NC2201124093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1148 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] A Western news agency has just reported that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today agreed to an initiative by the UK foreign secretary to send medical supplies to the Palestinian deportees. The supplies were provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross following a visit by two of its officials to the deportees camp in Marj al-Zuhur.

A Royal Air Force helicopter will take off from the base at Akrotiri in Cyprus and transport the supplies to an airport in al-Naqurah operated by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. The news agency notes that the helicopter will not fly in Lebanese airspace controlled by the Lebanese Government—a condition set by al-Hariri.

The helicopter will also make a trip between al-Naqurah and Marj al-Zuhur to transport to Israel the nine Palestinians mistakenly deported by the Zionist enemy. There has been no official Lebanese confirmation of this report.

Dallul Seeks Security Council Pressure on Israel

NC2101151693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has urged the international community represented by the United Nations and the Security Council to act quickly to implement UN resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 425. He also called for resolving the Palestinian deportees issue by returning them to their homeland in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 799.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, Dallul called on the UN Security Council to apply enough pressure on Israel to compel it to comply with UN resolutions. He accused Israel of resorting to maneuvers and delaying tactics in the peace talks, indicating that so far it has not offered anything tangible or serious expressing its desire for peace.

Dallul denied knowledge about the possibility of holding a new meeting of the Arab cordon states' foreign ministers in Damascus in the next few days.

Dallul reiterated that the Lebanese Government and people reject the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

On the possibility of deploying Lebanese Army units in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's [UNIFIL] operational area, Dallul said this subject currently is being discussed with the UNIFIL command. He called on the Arab states to support the Lebanese Government in its serious efforts to reconstruct and develop Lebanon, stressing there is determination to achieve this and to gain stability and build a strong army.

Fadlallah: U.S. 'Remains Threat' to Muslims

NC2101150093 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 21 (AFP) - The United States remains a threat to Muslims because it regards them as inferiors, the spiritual leader of the Iranian-backed Hizballah Muslim Shiite movement was quoted Thursday [21 January] as saying.

"The problem is that America, as we have read election statements, considers the interest of its people at the expense of others," Shaykh Husayn Fadlallah told the United Arab Emirates magazine AL-SHURUQ.

"So we believe America poses a threat to our interests as we had considered Europe in the past. It is not ready to look at us as people who are equal to it but people who submit to it. We hope all Muslims will be aware of this."

Fadlallah, whose movement was thought behind most of the Western kidnappings in Lebanon, said he believed people of the Third World were living in a state of war with the developed nations.

"We consider that we are in a state of war. We have to use our signs of strength to face the signs of weakness in the strong," he said.

Asked about the Israeli expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon last month, the cleric urged the Arabs to suspend peace negotiations with Israel to force it into taking them back.

"Tackling the problem should be through a shock. I call on Arabs to suspend, not cancel, the peace talks with Israel. This shock will move the world and prompt all big powers to stand strongly against the expulsions," he said.

Speaker Birri Returns From Tehran Visit

NC2001203993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and his accompanying delgation have concluded their visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He left Tehran at 1430, Tehran time, today, 1300 Beirut time. He and his delegation arrived in Beirut at 2030 today. [passage omitted]

Junblatt on Displaced, Abolition of Sectarianism

NC1601102793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Walid Junblatt, minister of state for expatriate affairs, [title as received] has announced that the decision to repatriate the displaced is not entirely in his hand.

Speaking on the Voice of Lebanon's "Saturday Salon" Program, he said Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad have asked him to carry out this duty.

In response to some peoples' belief that repatriation will fail, Junblatt said: Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir has called for a Syrian Army presence. I do not object to the Syrian Army's presence in al-Shuf as a guarantee for the displaced's return. If they want a French or U.S. Army, I have no objection; however, the army cannot provide protection, confidence in the neighbor is the key.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0915 GMT on 16 January carries a report on the same interview and adds the following: "Junblatt reiterated that he will not visit Bkirki [seat of Maronite patriarchate] although he is willing to meet Patriarch Sfyar outside the patriarchate. On the abolition of political sectarianism, Junblatt called for the president to be Christian and elected by the people in the interest of the orient's Christians and to give our country a cultural value. He said political sectarianism has to be eliminated. He stressed that democracy does not [as heard] mean majority rule and called for preserving all minorities within a civilized formula."]

'Dual Loyalty' Blamed for Phalangist Party Problems

NC1801211993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has ascribed the party's current crisis to dual loyalty to the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces.

Speaking during an expanded meeting of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau, Consultative Committee, and Central Council, Sa'adah presented documents, figures, and dates to demonstrate the faulty relationship between the party and the Lebanese Forces due to the latter's failure to implement the protocols and agreements between the two sides.

Relying on authenticated documents, Dr. Sa'adah listed the rights and funds accruing to the Phalangist Party from sources ranging from Maurice al-Jumayyil's consumer cooperative in Antilyas to the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation.

Sa'adah said that unresolved affairs cannot remain indefinitely without being settled, noting that in the end, what is Caesar's must be rendered unto Caesar, and what is God's unto God. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Official on 'Problem'

NC2001100693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Phalangist Party Deputy Leader Munir al-Haj said the main problem is that there is loyalty to the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces, which are two separate parties, each with its own leadership, administration, and structure.

In an interview with al-Mashriq Television, al-Haj said:

[Begin al-Haj recording] When there are no differences on the surface, democracy is not in good shape. When differences surface, democracy exists. The good thing about this [Phalangist Party] leadership is that it has let differences surface. This is a point in its favor, not against it. We must be fair to the current leadership, which has run the party since 1986. This leadership has prevented these differences from erupting into an armed conflict, even when weapons were readily available. In addition to God, and you have thanked him, you must also thank this leadership, because the absence of weapons was not the only reason the differences did not turn into an armed conflict. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt there are differences between the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party. There are also differences between Phalangists who belong to the Lebanese Forces and the [Phalangist Party] leadership. I attribute these differences to loyalty to both. In a democratic atmosphere, you cannot restrict someone's freedom. Within the regulations of a certain establishment, he can adopt the position he wants. But it is common knowledge that someone cannot join two parties at the same time. The Phalangists in the Lebanese Forces all rally round Dr. Ja'ja' and receive instructions and guidance from him, which they implement. They are linked closely with him. Within the Phalangist Party, they work in the interest of the Lebanese Forces. So they belong legally and in practice to another party, not to the Phalangist Party. Can they remain in the Phalangist Party? I think not, because there is a conflict in their being members of two parties at the same time. They must make up their mind regarding their loyalty. They must say we belong to the Lebanese Forces or to the Phalangist Party. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Commentary Speculates on Clinton's Israel Policy

JN2101214493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary carried in the "Spotlight" feature of the "Palestine Broadcast" program]

[Text] Brother strugglers: The inaugural speech delivered by U.S. President Bill Clinton as he became the new U.S. President addressed the international role of the United States. What is the significance of this speech for our region and for the Arab-Zionist conflict? Thus far, it is difficult for us to draw any conclusions in this regard. Similarly, it is difficult for us to know where Israel lies in the U.S. policy. Will Israel be deemed an ordinary country, as other world states? Or will Washington accord Israel a special and extraordinary treatment that could encourage it to tamper with international law and to hold it in disregard? It goes without saying that we are interested in receiving answers to these questions. This is because we are well aware of Israel's expansionist ambitions. Hence, we wonder: Will these ambitions clash with Washington's international role? Consequently, will the new U.S. Administration be firm toward Israel's rebellion against international law? The fate of Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the immediate repatriation of Palestinian deportees, as well as the way the Security Council will handle this resolution in the wake of Israel's refusal to implement it may reduce for us the time required for obtaining answers to these questions.

Clinton Urged To Aid Deportees, Prove Credibility

JN2201081893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH urges the new U.S. Administration to work on resolving the deportees issue through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 and by abandoning its policy of double standards with regard to the application of UN and Security Council resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH says: We hope the Clinton administration will take the side of justice, right, and peace. We also hope that the strong statements made by [UN special envoy] Gharekhan—that the UN Security Council is losing its patience with Israel and its refusal to implement the recent Security Council resolution—will turn into practical measures to pressure, punish, and force Israel to return the deportees. We also hope these statements will constitute a prelude for urgent measures to translate into reality the UN and Security Council resolutions concerning the conflict in the region and Israel's violations; measures which would force it to completely withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and recognize the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH stresses the need for the United States to support international resolutions, without bias, to establish justice. The paper says: The new U.S. Administration should understand the reasons and motives that contribute to the threat to human security. The United Nations must assume its role, and abidance by its Charter should provide proof of its true intentions.

AL-BA'TH says: The United States assumes new responsibilities toward world security and safety. The credibility of the U.S. Administration can be confirmed by abiding to justice and impartiality, and by preventing the aggressor from reaping the fruit of his aggression.

AL-BA'TH says the Arabs ask the United States to support right and those to whom it belongs. They also ask it to stop obstructing the role of the United Nations and it resolutions so that Israel will comply with these resolutions, and to help hope survive in a really new world.

Israeli Move on PLO Contacts Called 'Maneuver'

JN2201115793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jan (SANA)—Today's issue of AL-THAWRAH stresses that prior to the transfer of power to the new U.S. Administration, Israel raised media clamor and propagandist stands void of any content suggesting that there is a change in Israel's policy—a policy that is obstructing peace and seeking to consecrate the present situation.

In a commentary headlined "Intended for the New Administration," AL-THAWRAH undermined the importance of the reported cancellation of the decision banning contacts with the PLO—a decision which observers considered a new maneuver and an attempt to beautify Israel's ugly image at a time when Rabin has refused to repatriate the deportees. The paper adds: We trust that Israel has not added anything new to what is already there.

The paper notes that through this media clamor and the Palestinian deportee issue, Israel is trying to confuse the new U.S. Administration and test its Middle East policy. It adds that the Clinton administration's failure to contain the issue of deportees according to Resolution 799 will have negative repercussions on Washington's future performance and cast doubts on its credibility.

In conclusion, AL-THAWRAH expresses hope that the U.S. Administration will take the side of right and justice, and implement the Security Council resolutions on the deportees and the Middle East in general. These resolutions, the paper adds, bind Israel to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Fighting in Kabul, North

Heavy Clashes in Kabul

LD2201115493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Heavy clashes continued between the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] and government forces in the southwest of Kabul. Previously it was announced that Hezb-e Eslami had advanced, but an Afghan Defense Ministry official denied the report.

According to IRNA and Iranian radio and television correspondents reporting from Kabul, the severe exchange of heavy weapons' fire between the warring sides began during the early hours of 22 January. The clashes subsided around noon today.

Informed military sources said that during this morning's battles, Hezb-e Eslami forces made some advances in the Deh Bala region and the Chehelsotun palace area in the southwest of Kabul. An Afghan Defense Ministry official in contact with Iranian correspondents rejected this news and said: The exchange of heavy weapons' fire took place today only in the Char Asiab, Khairabad, and Bagrami regions.

The same Afghan Defense Ministry official said: Yesterday's attack by the Hezb-e Eslami forces, which took place in the southwest of Kabul, has been repulsed. He added: On the first day of the joint operations staged by the government and Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan] forces, Hezb-e Eslami's supply routes to Paktia, Khost, and Dubandi in eastern Afghanistan were cut off. He said: No efforts are currently under way to establish peace and a cease-fire between the warring sides. The government forces' operations will continue against the Hezb-e Eslami until the government's objectives are met.

The same Afghan Defense Ministry official confirmed that Kabul's medium-wave television transmitters, radio, and electricity installations have been damaged since Hezb-e Eslami attacks began, and they are currently out of operation.

A new wave of clashes resumed in Kabul when forces under the command of Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud attacked Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami positions in the suburbs of Kabul on Tuesday.

Fighting in North Leaves 80 Dead

BK2201043293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0423 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Kunduz, Afghanistan, Jan 22 (AFP)—About 80 people have died in a week of fighting between two mojahedin factions and an Uzbek militia for control of the strategic northern Afghan town of Baglan, sources here said.

Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Jami'at-e Eslami and Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, rivals in Kabul, have teamed up to fight the northern militia of General Abdul Rashid Dostam.

Dostam was close to the Soviet-installed regime of Najibollah that fell from power last year and was initially allied with Mas'ud after the communists' ouster.

A Jami'at leader in Kunduz, 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Baglan, said Thursday that 80 fighters and civilians had died in the fighting.

He said the mujahedin forces had taken control of the town, but acknowledged that he thought "the fighting will last some weeks."

Trucks carrying rockets and shells were seen this week continuing to leave Kunduz for Baglan.

The majority of Baglan's inhabitants have already fled the town—a strategic point between Kunduz and Imam Sahib on Afghanistan's northeastern border—that was ravaged by Afghanistan's civil war.

Sources here say Dostam—whose stronghold is in the town of Mazar-e Sharif—is trying to gain control of all of northern Afghanistan.

Government Forces Reported on 2 Fronts

LD2101175593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] While battles between the forces of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party of Afghanistan and the government rage in southwestern Kabul, the forces of Sayyed Mansur Naderi's 80th division [ferqeh] also clashed with government forces this evening. The fighting between government troops and the 80th division forces took place in northwestern Kabul. It subsided after a two hour exchange of fire.

Meanwhile, various Kabul districts are still under attack by long-range weapons of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party forces, and traffic has stopped in the city.

In addition, Afghan radio and television are off the air at the moment after rockets hit Kabul's radio and television transmitting center this morning.

Previous Regime's Militia Attacks Herat

LD2101162493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The crushed and defeated militia in the southwest zone once again attempted to create disruption in Herat's border areas. It was crushed by mojahedin of the southwest zone.

An official spokesman for Herat province's southwest zone told BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] that militia forces of the previous regime, which fled Herat as a result of recent operations, wanted to create disorder in this province. Headed by Khalifa Sobhan, they attacked the Robat region 13 kilometers from the border of Iran. The forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan put up resistance against them, prevented their aggression, and faced them with defeat. Some 50 militia of the previous regime were killed and 146 of them were captured. The spokesman said that 17 transport vehicles were set on fire.

Commenting on the news item a BIA political commentator writes: Under the condition when our mojahed and heroic nation has successfully convened the Ahl-e Hal wa Aqd Shura [Solution and Settlement] and after electing the peoples' government [we] are engaged in consolidating its foundation, the existence of such (?forces) at borders with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has Islamic and fraternal relations with our Islamic state, is a cause of concern to us. Under the present sensitive time in the history of Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran ought to act, as in the past, in a manner to stand on the side of our jihad and to be a good neighbour to us. The existence of activities against Islamic rule in the border areas of both countries and [words indistinct] of elements of the past regime, could cause concern about the future relations between our Muslim nations.

Hezb-e Eslami Fire Missiles Into Kabul

LD2101160693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Golboddin's forces fired 82 SAKR missiles on the residential areas of the city of Kabul.

A correspondent of the Military Section of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY quoting an authoritive security source reports that today in the third day of clearing-up operations which have began by the Islamic army, Golboddin's forces fired missiles from the southern direction on 2d, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 11th wards of Kabul city and martyred and injured a number of our compatriots.

The source adds that as a result of fire of these missiles a number of houses and state and public establishments were damaged.

Success in Mopping-Up Drive

LD2001201793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Article by BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Units of our Islamic army began extensive mopping-up operations toward the southwest of Kabul yesterday morning, in places where the forces of the Golboddin party were stationed and fired missiles at the city of Kabul. Reports from the Ministry of Defence indicate that the results of the first day of these operations were very positive. Our Islamic army was able to achieve great success.

Military observers believe that despite very cold weather and very difficult terrain, the results of these operations could be called a military masterpiece.

Despite the fact that, at the demand of the Muslim and mojahed people, the Resolution and Settlement Council was convened and our people expressed their will on electing the leadership of their Islamic state, the party of Golboddin did not refrain from [word indistinct] opposition and as a [word indistinct] opposition intensified missile attacks against Kabul City and [words indistinct] as well as on the positions of the Islamic army, instead of coming to (?the capital). He caused mourning among scores of Muslim and faithful families in the city of Kabul. He inflicted great material loss on them.

According to reports from Ministry of Defense sources, the forces of Golboddin fired 350 missiles at the city of Kabul in the two weeks up to yesterday. These missiles martyred 30 of our compatriots and wounded 60. In this way the Golboddin party has killed many children, women, and old people, and innocent Kabul citizens.

The Islamic state has made every possible effort to solve problems with the opposition through understanding and talks. It has left the door open for negotiations and attempted, through its flexibility, to prevent the continuation of war in the country. However, the opposition preferred war instead of an understanding. Thus our Islamic army, which is the guardian of our national interests and that of the life and property of our Muslim and faithful people, was instructed to prevent the offensives and other attacks of forces of the Islamic Party, whose targets are civilians and innocent people.

Yesterday morning, therefore, mopping-up operations began in the direction of Hudkhel, Deh Khodaydad, Bagrami, Botkhak Tangi, Khak-e Jabar, and the Shina and Kamari hills. These regions were cleansed of the aggressive forces of Golboddin during the first hours of the operation. These forces were captured by the Islamic army. A large amount of war equipment and ammunition were seized by the Islamic army units on the first day. Dozens of men of forces of the Islamic Party were captured and a large number were ousted from the battle ranks. The remainder were pushed back from the abovementioned villages. Only two mojahedin belonging to the Islamic army were injured.

The present operations could yield positive results on the battlefield and also in the political field, despite the maintenance of security in the capital, and bring about new dimensions [sentence as heard]. The success of the state in pushing back the forces of the Islamic Party on the one hand proves the military superiority of the Islamic state over the military opposition, and on the other hand hold out the possibility that those groups and forces who are siding with the defeated front in opposition to the state could be encouraged to reconsider their political stand. Those who want to achieve their personal and political aims through military pressure should now realize that the only way to solution lies in understanding and the closeness of forces.

The victory of the Islamic army in the recent operation is expressed in the fact that the cries and suffering of the people of Kabul [words indistinct] who are mercilessly raining missiles on the Muslim people of Kabul. As a result of the courage of the brave mojahedin of our Islamic army, the positions of the aggressors were cleaned out.

This great success, achieved despite the uneven terrain and the thick snow which hampered motor and armored vehicles, can truly be called a masterpiece of war. Now [words indistinct] the Islamic state accepts the existence of its political opposition and is always ready for talks and understanding toward eliminating differences with and the concerns of some groups. No pretext can justify resort to military pressure. Why are they afraid of entering the political arena? Now everyone knows that those who are politically empty-handed prefer the battlefield. And what sort of war? The blind firing of missiles, the killing of faithful Muslims and the destruction of their homes. These people should know, however, that our people, through the Resolution and Settlement Council, have expressed their views on electing their leadership.

Now the state is ready to solve all differences through understanding and talks. Our state is trying to put the foundation of the order of our Islamic country on the basis of maintaining the rights of all groups and strata, and safeguarding national unity and a united Afghanistan. However, it will not allow anyone, through abusing the patience of the state, to threaten the security and peace of the innocent people and disrupt public order. The state is ready to deal shattering blows at all aggressors and rebel forces. Success comes from God.

Commanders Killed in Baghlan

BK1901143493 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Peshawar (APP)—Fighting between Hezbe-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) and Esmaili Militia in Baghlan is escalating and a number of Militia and Mojahedin forces are reported killed and wounded.

However, the Hezb headquarter said negotiations between the two sides are in progress and expressed the hope that a rapproachement would soon be reached.

Four prominent Commanders of Hezb-e Eslami, namely Commander Mohammad Seyyed, Commander Maamoor Rasool, Commander Jalil and Commander Sharifollah lost their lives in the two-days battle while 40 others received injuries.

The Hezb has claimed that 60 of the Militia side were killed and many more injured. They also claimed about 1,000 of Militia force surrendered to Hezb-e Eslami while 600 were arrested, besides capturing 29 tanks, 40 antiaircraft guns and number of mortar guns.

Tension in Kabul city was increasing with the digging of trenches by the government forces and arrival of fresh contingents of shura nizar headed by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Afghan Defence Minister, from the north of Afghanistan.

Hezb-e Eslami Claims Success Over Kayani

LD1801165293 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] A responsible source of the general command of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan's brave mojahedin in Baghlan has reported to Radio Message of Freedom that as a result of the continuous attacks of mojahedin commanded by Ghayor and Bashir Khan, a large number of bases and posts of the Kayani militia's 20th division were captured and more than 100 militiamen killed. As many as 1,000 armed men of the enemy surrendered to the brave mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami and 600 others were taken prisoner. Six enemy tanks were destroyed.

The report adds that as a result of the fighting the mojahedin have captured the following: 29 tanks, 10 antiaircraft guns, one [word indistinct] gun, nine artillery pieces, 25 ZK1, 10 DSk, 30 mortars, 37 sets of rockets, 30 (Goronov) machineguns, 1,400 Kalashnikovs, and 19 Kamaz vehicles. The report also says that the city of Pol-e Khomri and the headquarters of the 20th division are under powerful seige by the mojahedin, whose advance is continuing.

Hekmatyar Forces Capture Ettehad-e Eslami Base

LD1801114593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] According to a report from Afghanistan, following days of intense clashes between the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami, one of the most important military bases of Sayyaf's forces in Pole-e Sorkh, situated in Darreh Meydan, was captured by Hekmatyar's forces. Also, during the clashes, the commander of Sayyaf's forces in Darreh Meydan was killed. According to the report, heavy artillery fire between the two sides in (Kotaltakht) and (Chukarqandi) continued throughout yesterday and last night, causing damages.

Security Chief Meets Nangarhar Mojahedin Commanders

LD2101180093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Esteemed Fahim, head of National Security met this morning in his office with jihadi commanders of the Islamic Society [Jami'at-e Eslami], the National Front [Mahaz-e Meli], the Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami], the Islamic Revolution Movement [Harakat-e

Enqelab-e Eslami], and the Islamic Party of Mawlawi Khales from the district of Hesara Ghaljai and a number [words indistinct], Nangarhar Province.

The military section of BAKHTAR Information Agency reports that the meeting began with the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran. Then commander Alam Gul, on behalf of others, expressed support for the decisions taken by the Resolution and Settlement Council and the election of professor Borhanoddin Rabbani as the first president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. He said that now the time of war and fratricide has ended in Afghanistan. Thanks to God, an Islamic government has been formed with the participation of all mojahedin.

[Words indistinct] I, on behalf of all the commanders of the district of Hesara Gheljai pledge not to spare any efforts in Implementation of the programs of the Islamic state.

Esteemed Fahim talked in detail about the valuable role played by mojahedin in toppling Najib's government, in capturing Kabul, in forming an Islamic state, and in the recent development. He praised the cooperation of those commanders in ensuring a nationwide security in the country. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Reports on Terrorist Training Camps

NC2001205893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1246 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Afghan Information Minister Mohammad Siddique Chakri has denied reports that Afghanistan has camps on its territory that train terrorists to carry out sabotage operations in Egypt or any other Islamic state. In an exclusive statement to MENA, the Afghan official described these reports as rumors propagated by people against the establishment of the new Islamic state in Afghanistan to hurt relations with fraternal Egypt. He said he hopes such allegations will not affect the solid relations and strong ties between the sisterly states of Egypt and Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

The Afghan information minister urged Iraq not to give the United States an excuse to intervene in the Gulf. He added that if the United States is striking at Iraq to implement the resolutions of international legality, what will it do to Israel, which is defying the resolutions of international legality, the latest being Resolution 799 that calls for the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes?

On the situation in Afghanistan, the Afghan official said that Shaykh Borhanoddin Rabbani is a legitimate and lawful president of Afghanistan, after having been elected by 916 out of 975 members [words indistinct] who number 1325. He added that Hezb-i-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, because of his isolation, made an alliance with the pro-Iranian Shiite Hezb-i-Wahadat party as well as the (Rustum) group to achieve his hope of becoming head of state. He called on everybody to recognize the legitimate leadership that has been duly elected.

Islamic Unity Spokesman on Dispute With Rabbani

LD1901192693 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—The main reason of the disputes between Afghanistan Wahdat-e Eslami (Islamic Unity) Party and Borhanoddin Rabbani is related to the leadership council, spokesman of the Wahdat Party Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateqi says.

In an interview appearing in JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI here today, he said Rabbani was supposed to hand over power to the Leadership Council after his term as provisional president, however, he did not do so, and took over the power without consultation with the Leadership Council.

"Our position is very clear, and we will accept any decision taken by the council concerning future presidency, and if the council elects Mr. Rabbani, we will accept that provided that everything is done through legal channels," Nateqi said.

Five combatant groups including Wahdat-e Eslami, Hezb-e Eslami, National Salvation Front, Mahaz-e Eslami and North National Islamic Movement are sharing common viewpoints in this regard. "And they have agreed that no single party should rule over the other parties," he said.

On the Shura-ye Hal Wa'Aqd (Settlement) Council, he said all groups agreed with the establishment of the council, however, Rabbani using the facilities at his disposal recruited his own party's (the Jam'iat-e Eslami) members, which prompted protests by others to its composition.

Asked whether Rabbani's mistake justified Wahdat-e Eslami's coalition with certain other groups like Hekmatyar's party, he said the Wahdat-e Eslami had links with all other parties before and after the fall of the communist regime.

"We do not agree with the idea that Wahdat-e Eslami is against the Hekmatyar's party, although some differences of views exist."

Terming the North Movement as a powerful group which played a major role in the overthrow of Najib's regime, Nateqi said if it had not risen up and had not ceased its support for Najib's regime the latter would remain in power in Afghanistan.

Asked whether Wahdat-e Eslami Party counted on General Abdol Rashid Dostum as a reliable factor, Nateqi said the party believed that without contribution of the North Movement (led by General Dostum) and other combatant parties the issue of Afghanistan would not be solved.

"This is a reality, and we do not want to remove anyone from the scene," he said.

"Some people believe that since Rabbani is Farsi-speaking and is closer to the Shiite Muslims, he is able to better protect the interests of the Wahdat-e Eslami Party, what is your opinion?," JOMHURI asked.

Nateqi rejected the idea and said Rabbani had broken his promises concerning the Shiite and Wahdat-e Eslami Party many times, and that Abdul Rasul Sayyaf's forces who are an ally to Rabbani, entered a war against Wahdat-e Eslami in order to massacre the Shiites and the party members.

"Mr. Rabbani has unfortunately intensified his anti-Shiite plans over the recent months, and we have evidences that he has been involved in fanning the flames of war and provoking Sayyaf against the Wahdat-e Eslami Party."

Asked about his opinion on the current situation in Afghanistan which would expose the county to the danger of an all-out war, Nateqi said in case a war breaks out, Rabbani who has a thirst for power would be responsible.

"Of course we have time and again announced that the issue of Afghanistan will not be settled by means of war, but if a war is launched for the removal of the Wahdat-e Eslami Party, we will defend ourselves," he said.

Nateqi reiterated that Wahdat-e Eslami will not involve itself in any war unless its positions are attacked.

Iran-Backed Faction Leader Demands Rabbani Step Down

LD1901152093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Abdol Ali Mazari, secretary-general of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, has expressed anxiety about the possibility of war in Afghanistan and has said that his party will continue its political opposition to the government. Announcing this in an interview with Voice and Vision and IRNA correspondents in Kabul yesterday, he added: The leadership council must choose an interim head of government and either reconvene the Resolution and Settlement Council according to a bill [as heard] approved by all of Afghanistan's political parties or prepare the way for a general election so that the people can elect the future president and goverment by direct vote.

As for areas of agreement between the five groups opposed to the government, Mazari said: The transfer of power from Rabbani to the leadership council and the appointment of an interim head of government by the council are the most important areas of agreement. The secretary-general of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami named Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, the Islamic National Movement of the North, the Hezb-e Mahaz-e Melli, and the Jebhe-ye Nejat-e Melli as four allies in its opposition to the government.

He stressed that the five groups in this coalition will continue their opposition to the government through political means and added: None of these five groups will start the war.

Commentator Views Motives for Offensive Against Golboddin

LD2101213793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1549 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Our Muslim and religious compatriots are aware that since the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Ahl-e Hal wa 'Aqd] up to now, Golboddin's forces have continuosly subjected the city of Kabul to missile attacks and have martyred and injured dozens of people and destroyed the public properties of our Muslim people. At present the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has received instructions to embark on clearing up operations to prevent the offensive by Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] forces against people of Kabul. As the figures released show the Islamic State of Afghanistan has gained notable successes in this respect.

A political commentator of Bakhtar Information Agency writes: If one looks at the recent incidents and developments after the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council and the decisions made by that council, it shows clearly that a number of jihadi groups who had fully agreed with draft programs of holding the council and the time of its convocation and also approved it, then, on the eve of holding the council, they expressed their disagreement as a matter of taste and technical considerations. Among them was Golboddin's party [Hezb-e Golboddin], which instead of choosing the path of talks and understanding to resolve the disagreement, continued to fire long range missiles on Kabul citizens from the eve of the convocation of the council. As a result of this, hundreds of our innocent compatriots including women, children and elderly people were killed and countless financial damages were inflicted on public properties.

From the convocation of the council to 15 Jadi [5 January] more than 28 people of our compatriots were martyred and dozens were injured as a result of missiles fired by Golboddin's party. His party fired more than 323 missiles on Kabul city since between 15 Jadi and Sunday [17 January]. Only the day before yesterday, 29 Jadi [19 January], Golboddin fired more than 200 missiles on Kabul city. As a result of this 12 of our innocent compatriots were martyred and 25 were injured.

These losses of life of the innocent and Muslim people of Afghanistan and the enormous other financial damage which has been caused, has become unbearable for Afghanistan's state and people. The Islamic State of Afghanistan and its Islamic army who are responsible for defending the people's lives and property became determined to prevent the savage offensive by Golboddin's forces against Kabul. Therefore, on Tuesday morning 29 Jadi, the army of the Islamic State was forced to embark on mopping up operations in the directions of Hud Khel, Deh Khodaydad, Begrami, Tanqi Bud Khak and Khaki Jabar, and the hills of Shina and Tanay. According to the reports received, the forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan have cleared the aforementioned localities from the existence of forces of Golboddin's party. As a result eight BM-21 systems, a Lona, two B-300 guns, 15 tanks, two BM-40 systems, several anti-air batteries and various types of guns and heavy and light weapons were seized by the forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The reports adds that a large number of men from Golboddin's party were also eliminated and a number were captured.

The political commentator of Bakhtar Information Agency adds that these figures are the manifestation of the fact that the Islamic State of Afghanistan and its powerful army have the ability to teach a lesson to the enemies of people life and property in a very short period of time. The outcome of only one day of mopping up operations against the Golboddin forces is the best example to support this claim. The patience and tolerance which has been shown so far against the attacks by Golboddin's party was for this purpose: that Golboddin probably might stop killing the Muslim and innocent people of Afghanistan and resort to peaceful means for resolving the problems.

But, the situation development in such a manner that not only were the missile attacks by Golboddin's party not reduced but rather they were intensified day by day. The people of Kabul were fed up with seeing their children killed and their city destroyed, and were questioning why such killing and destruction was being carried out with an Islamic state and government in power in Kabul. The missile attacks on Kabul city by Golboddin's party are unjustifiable, neither from point of view of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the world, nor from an Islamic or political and Afghan point of view. For, nothing will be achieved from it except the killing of the innocent people.

Based on its Islamic, Afghan and duty obligation, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has been forced to prevent the offensive of Golboddin's foces so as to defend the people's life and property. The responsibility for all the killing, destruction, and elimination of public properities and private properities and the continuation of war lies on the shoulders of Golboddin, who has fanned the flame of war in the Islamic State of Afghanistan for nothing. But, what is obvious is the fact that finally those who promote war will themselves be burned in the flames of what they themselves have ignited. Success comes from God.

Provinces Ignore Kabul, Seek Direct Ties With Countries

BK2101125193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Jan 93 p 5

[Text] Peshawar—In the absence of a powerful central government some provinces of Afghanistan are reportedly striving for direct deals with other countries without seeking the consent of Kabul.

Sources confided to THE NEWS that the incumbent administrations of two provinces, Mazar-e Sharif and Herat, have made contacts with Iran to send students to Tehran and Mashhad universities on scholarship basis.

According to the sources the Universities of Mazar-e Sharif and Herat established during Dr. Najibollah regime, would send 1000 students annually to Iran for higher studies. The Rabbani government sources said, had been bypassed by the provinces while making the contracts with Iran.

According to the contracts, Mazar-e Sharif would send 500 students to Tehran while Herat would send a similar number to Mashhad, Najib Jamail, the press information head of Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Rabbani in Peshawar, said he has no information regarding the deal and said he can neither deny nor confirm the reports.

Faizullah Kakar, Chancellor of the Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar)- run Jehad University commenting on the deal said by passing Kabul while making contracts with the provincial administrations, Iran was violating the territorial sovereignty of Afghanistan.

A former Minister in the Afghan interim government (AIG), on condition of anonymity said, this was a cultural invasion on the part of Iran as all the seats would be given to non-Pashtuns. He said Iran has also bypassed Kabul in the past while opening its consulates in these provinces, a step the central government in Kabul has already protested.

He informed that Iran was asked to close down it consulates but later the issue was resolved between the two countries. It is to be recalled that Kabul University is closed for the one year and pro-Iran Hezb-e Wahdat has declared that they would not allow its opening until Kabul government gives them their due share in the government.

It is also reported that most of the equipment of Kabul University has been looted and reportedly transported out of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Commentary Hopes Ties With U.S. Improve Under Clinton

BK2201055593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mr. Bill Clinton has been sworn in as the new U.S. President. He is the 42d President and only 46 years old. Mr. Clinton is one of the three youngest Presidents in the American history. He is also the first President who [words indistinct] World War II to occupy the White House. The tradition of holding elections every four years since the founding of the United States in 1776 has given democracy firm roots in that country. America, once a British colony, can be proud of its democratic heritage. It is not the transition of power from one President to another, it is the [word indistinct] practice of democracy that the American people can be proud of and the world can take note of.

William Jefferson Clinton is the first Democrat to be elected to the White House after 12 years of Republican rule. As the new American President, Mr. Bill Clinton has [words indistinct] stage of the world arena. The United States is now the dominant power in the international arena. Therefore, the President of the United States now carries more punch, power and clout than ever before. President Clinton's base will be the vitality of the youth and a promise for change. He has been elected by the American people because of his campaign pledge to revitalize the U.S. economy that has been marked by recession and growing unemployment. Mr. Clinton's initial focus will therefore be to move into America's economic and domestic issues.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Clinton has already spoken of American renewal. To assist him, the new President has chosen a cabinet that represents both the young and the experienced, more black minorities and women in an effort to portray the diversity of the United States. Having given the mantle of the presidency to Mr. Bill Clinton, the people of America will expect things to change for the better. They will not be satisfied with the United States being the dominant military power only, but will also want the country to return its position as the world economic leader.

Mr. Clinton in his inaugural speech has said there is no clear division today between what is foreign and what is domestic. The world economy, the world environment, and the world arms race affect all of us. Therefore, to succeed we will have to concentrate to provide a fair deal in the international politics in an attempt for bringing a climate of peace and stability in all the conflict-torn regions.

In the changed international order, a stable world will benefit both the United States' economic interests and the interests of all nations, in making strides for economic development and progress. It will be President Clinton's [word indistinct] to make the world a more safer and peaceful place to live and to channelize more of its economic wealth for the developing countries of the world. The Third World countries would earnestly expect some desirable and realistic policy changes by the new American Administration for their uninterrupted development efforts. Both trade and aid should receive increased attention. Protectionist policy applied by the United States and many developed countries require to be reviewed liberally by the new administration.

Bangladesh has excellent ties with the United States and will expect that these bonds would strengthen further during President Clinton's administration. There has been increasing interaction and mutual cooperation in several spheres between Bangladesh and the United States. The Bangladeshi Government will confidently look for improved ties with the newly elected Democratic administration in the United States.

India

Rao Sees No Plan for Coalition Government

BK2201050693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister says that there is no readymade plan at present for the formation of a coalition government at the Center. Talking to newsmen at Nandial yesterday, Mr. Narsimha Rao said that the idea is only in the realm of thinking. He said the stability at the Center will be maintained. Mr. Rao pointed out that stability has been maintained though the party does not have a majority in both houses of parliament.

Addressing a public meeting at Gorekal near Nandial, the prime minister called upon the people to be vigilant against divisive forces and thwart their attempts to divide them on communal lines. Mr. Narasimha Rao warned that certain forces inimical to the country's progress had whipped up communal frenzy and raised trivial issues triggering trouble throughout the country. He asserted that the country has now overcome the recent tension created by communal elements and stressed the need for people's cooperation in carrrying forward development programs.

Mr. Narasimha Rao, who is on a three-day visit to Andhra Pradesh, reaffirmed his government's commitment to strengthen the panchayati raj [rural council] system and make the people active participants in the development process. Mr. Rao assured the Andhra Pradesh chied minister, Mr. Vijaybhaskar Reddy, that the 1,800 crore rupees proposal for development of back areas of the state will be favorably looked into. The Gorekal balancing reservoir, of which the prime minister laid the foundation stone, has been renamed as Narasimha Rao Sagar.

Five Killed by Sikh Militants in Uttar Pradesh

BK2001042093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, Punjab militants killed five people and abducted 11 from Rehar village in Bijnor District yesterday. Police said that one home guard was among those shot dead. A hunt has been launched to nab the militants.

Muslims Said Afraid To Return to Work in Bombay

BK2201074093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0713 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Bombay, Jan 22 (AFP)—Thousands of Muslims are staying away from work in Bombay out of fear or pressure from Hindu militants following two weeks of communal violence in India's commercial capital, officials said Friday.

Mass Muslim absenteeism has been noted as factories, companies and other businesses reopened for the first time this week following the Hindu-Muslim clashes which began January 5 and left nearly 700 people dead, they said.

Rohitas Patil, the labor minister of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, told AFP the government had ordered a survey of employees in a number of industries to determine the extent of Muslim absenteeism.

Patil said only about 15 of the 2,000 Muslims who worked at Mazgaom Docks Ltd., which employs 10,000 people, showed up on the job Wednesday at Bombay port, India's busiest.

Only about 30 of the 2,700 Muslim employees of engineering and construction giant Larson and Toubro have showed up for work this week, he added.

Auto manufacturers Mahindra and Mahindra, which makes jeeps and tractors at its plant in Kandivili, northwest Bombay, said that only 20 of the 170 Muslims in its tractor division have clocked in.

State government officials, trade union leaders and local businessmen all said there was a definite campaign under way to keep Muslims off the job.

They accused the labor wing of a Bombay-based Hindu militant organization, the Shiv Sena (Shivaji's Army), of being behind the campaign.

During the peak of the rioting, pamphlets and wall posters appeared around town calling on people to "boycott Muslim businesses ... and to drive them out by imposing these economic sanctions."

The Bharatiya Kamgar Sena (BKS, Indian Workers Army), the labor wing of the Shiv Sena, denied pressuring firms to dismiss Muslim workers.

Shiv Sena leader Bal Thackeray, who otherwise makes no secret of his desire to evict Muslims from the city, said "I do not know about it, but I have asked my labor wing people to look into it and report back."

The Hindu nationalist and vehemently anti-communist Shiv Sena has been involved in a longtime battle with leftist trade unions here over control of Bombay's organized labor force of three million people.

Trade union leaders held talks with Maharashtra chief minister Sudhakar Naik on Wednesday to discuss the Shiv Sena campaign to force out Muslims.

B.S. Dhume, a leader of the local chapter of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), controlled by the Communist Party of India, said the unions had demanded government protection for anyone who wanted to resume work.

"What we want is for the government to take this bull by the horns and deal with this development right away," Dhume said. "Any worker should be regarded only as a worker and not classified on the basis of his religion or community."

A spokesman for the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said the trade union leaders told Naik that the situation was "very bad." "Muslim workers are not in a position to go back to their jobs in some factories," he said.

Thousands of Muslims fled Bombay once the riots began and the exodus is also reportedly responsible for much of the absenteeism.

Bombay's gem and jewelery trades, both of which have large numbers of Muslim craftsmen, have been particularly hard hit.

Army Chief Defends Army's Role in Law, Order

BK2201105093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Jan 93 p 14

[Text] New Delhi—The Army Chief, Gen S. F. Rodrigues, has defended Army's deployment extensively in maintaining law and order saying, "nation building is joint endeavour and Army efforts in this can not be adversarial".

Conceding that Army's extensive deployment on internal security duty and in counter-insurgency operations had "undoubtedly stretched" the Army, Gen Rodrigues said the troops had executed these tasks with professionalism and sensitivity.

The Army Chief said throughout 1992, Army had been called out extensively in maintaining law and order and had risen magnificently to the job.

He said the massive deployment of the Army in Punjab had instilled confidence among the local people which had enabled free and fair elections. In other major insurgency infested areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Assam, the Army had by its relentless action kept the militancy in check.

In a wide ranging interview to the defence services newsletter SAINIK SAMACHAR on the occasion of the Army Day, the Chief of the Army staff said because of its stature, credibility and the professional competence" the Indian Army would play a more positive and important role in peace keeping operation under the United Nations.

With regard to training and adapting to the rapidly changing technological environment, the Army Chief said that Army had drawn up a long-term perspective plan and was working methodically to develop appropriate capabilities to meet likely operational challenges.

Elaborating further on the Army internal security role, Gen Rodrigues said again in December, Army had to be deployed in large numbers in the aftermath of the Ayodhya and quoted the Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, comments that Army's role in helping maintain law and order in a situation where violence and conflict could have assumed more serious proportions than they did was commendable.

On India's increased role in United Nations peace keeping operations, the Army Chief said India had strong contingents in Cambodia and in UN peace keeping missions in Central America Africa and West Asia besides erstwhile Yugoslavia where the contingent commander was an Indian General.

He said India was planning to contribute a suitably structured component under UN command for operation 'Restore Hope' in Somllia .

Geo Rodrigue said India was co-hosting the Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS) from January 22 to 29 with the main theme being appropriate United Nations peace keeping operations. He said officers from 35 countries would be participating adding that India was confident that the subject would have significant ramification and also lead to a more positive role for India in the region and also in the world.

Besides, its important role in counter insurgency and law and orders problems, the Army Chief said the forces had repulsed a major misadventure by the Pakistani troops in the Siachen glacier area in July-end and beginning of August 1992.

He said Indian troops were continuing to dominate positions along the Saltoro Ridge and had over the years exhibited exceptional valour, courage and determination in the area. He said the very fact that Indian troops had thwarted all Pakistani attempts to secure foot-hold on the Saltoro Ridge braving vagaries of the weather, spoke of the preparedness and the high level of motivation of the forces.

About whether the resource crunch had adversely affected the preparedness and modernisation drive in the Army, Gen Rodrigues said as the Army was manpower heavy, most of the resources went towards maintenance.

In 1992, after looking after contractual obligations, the Army had to cut spending in every sphere, effect economies to try to save as much money as possible for modernisation.

Bold Steps Urged To Solve Ayodhya 'Tangle'

BK2101153993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 7 Jan 93 p 11

[Article by V.P. Dutt: "Ayodhya—The Real Issues"]

[Text] The real issues in the Ayodhya tangle have tended to get somewhat clouded with the destruction of the Babri Masjid [mosque] by the fanatical followers of the RSS [Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, National Volunteer Corps] and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP, World Hindu Council]. Some of the issues relate to constitutional, or politico-constitutional aspects and some to the political scenario before the country.

The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, did raise the issue, but unfortunately some of the wording in his speech in Parliament took the discussion away to a debate on Article 356 of the Constitution. It is doubtful that this was what he intended. Every commentary subsequently pointed out the powers available to the Centre and the desirability or otherwise of keeping this provision intact. All the reactions were adverse to the idea of the "strengthening" of Article 356. In this limited sense, undoubtedly the Centre had the authority to intervene and take over the reins of administration before December 6 and to try to prevent the assault on the mosque.

But the debate has missed the real point and the Prime Minister seems to have shrugged his shoulders in helplessness about the nature of the debate. But the real issue remains highly significant whether or not there is any effective answer to it. The real issue is what the Centre ought to do in a situation in which the State Government pledges its word to protect the Constitution and the sanctity of the legal processes and not to allow anything to happen that would cause hurt to it? Is the State Government to be believed or not in a situation of that kind?

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] Government in Uttar Pradesh [UP] headed by Mr Kalyan Singh gave its solemn word to the Supreme Court as well as to the Allahabad High Court that it would abide by the decisions of the court, would not allow the mosque to be harmed and would obey the majesty of law in the country. The same assurance was repeated in the National Integration Council as well as in Parliament. In fact the BJP and the State Government both conveyed the impression that the kar seva [voluntary service for temple construction] was going to be confined to bhajans and kirtans [hymns and devotion songs] and even that, perhaps, it was a symbolic gesture. The affirmations to observe the law were so vigorously made that even the Supreme Court saw no reason to disbelieve them and refused the Centre's plea to appoint a receiver for the disputed site in Ayodhya.

Whatever may be the wording of Article 356, and certainly the power is available to the Centre, the politico-constitutional issue is whether in such circumstances the Centre should take a stand that the word of the State Government was not worth the scrap of paper on which it was written and that it must take pre-emptory action and nonetheless dismiss the constitutionally-elected government.

There can be little doubt that if the government had actually taken such pre-emptory action, all those who are now accusing the Centre of inaction would have cried "murder" and even those who wish to present an award to the Prime Minister for "gullibility" would have denounced the action as panicky and premature. There is no evidence to suggest that they would have backed up the government in such an eventuality. It is well-known that many Left-leaning persons were in fact acting as emissaries between the BJP and the Government and solemnly advising the Prime Minister not to take hasty action as nothing was likely to happen in Ayodhya except some demonstrative, largely symbolic, activity in favour of construction of the Ram temple.

Further, if no credence was to be given to the promises and assurances given by the BJP and if its governments were not to be believed, it follows logically that it could not be allowed to form a government anywhere in the country. How could the BJP-RSS-headed governments be expected to uphold the Constitution and the law elsewhere if their word to do so in UP was of no consequence. It is amazing how people who should know better have adopted inherently contradictory standpoints, endorsing one action at one place, but running away from the logic of it at other places.

It is still possible to argue that the Central Government should have taken a bold stand in defence of the Constitution and the law and dismissed the BJP-ruled Government in Uttar Pradesh and taken vigorous steps to prevent kar seva and the possible threat of damage to the mosque. But then in the prevailing correlation of political forces in Parliament and in the country, the Government needed the support of other parties who subscribe to the upholding of the secular character of our society. That support was just not available before December 6. The Left parties and other political formations and forces should have come out publicly in support of the use of Article 356 to dismiss the Kalyan Singh Government much before the assemblage of two lakhs of people at Ayodhya for the so-called kar seva.

I have repeatedly emphasised the notion of "much before" the 6th December, for very obvious reasons but which did not seem to be so obvious to some of those who are taking the Central Government to task for passivity during those fateful days. The fact of the matter is that very few options were available on the 4th or 5th of December. Already two lakh people had converged on Ayodhya at the beck and call of the BJP, the RSS, the VHP and the Bajrang Dal. Nothing short of a bloodbath would have sufficed to deter those mobs. We would have had our own "Tiananmen". Any preventive action to protect the mosque would have had to be taken many days, if not weeks, before the frenzied mobs were allowed to collect at Ayodhya.

This still does not absolve the Centre of its responsibility and the failure in the discharge of that responsibility. Sometimes it becomes necessary to sacrifice everything for the sake of the fundamentals. However, there should be no question of abandoning the fight. When Jawaharlal Nehru's dreams lay shattered amidst communal riots in the wake of independence, he wondered why he should stick to his office and what there was in it when everything he held dear seemed to be crashing around his ears. But it would have been irresponsible (and unthinkable) of him to have run away from the struggle and so he laboured to stem the madness around him and to work harder for the ideals for which they had fought for freedom.

It certainly would greatly strengthen the struggle if all those who believe in democracy and equality of rights of all citizens under the law irrespective of caste, creed and colour, protection of the weaker sections and the separation of the state from religion were to put their heads together in the fight against the monster of communalism and religious bigotry and intolerance. But the idea of a joint front need not be carried too far, as its limitations should be understood. The Left parties are strong where their only competitor is the Congress. Wherever the BJP is the competitor, the Left hardly has more than a marginal presence. Some difference could be made if the Congress and the Janata Dal were to face the threat of communalism together, but that is asking for the political moon.

There are no easy options, if at all there are any options available. The Narasimha Rao Government has to reconcile itself to the fact that whatever course it adopts would displease one section or the other. There is no solution that would be acceptable to everyone, because the fight is fundamentally political. An undisguised and blatantly unscrupulous use of an emotive religious issue is being made to subserve the interests of political power. The call for a mid-term poll by the BJP is obvious proof, if proof was really needed.

In the circumstances, the Prime Minister should follow whatever is the most reasonable course available to the country at the moment and not be guided merely by pleasing or displeasing one section or the other. Some proposals have already been given in this regard and with some "refinement" they can be pushed ahead, regardless of the reactions of the parties involved. Majority communalism and minority communalism are equally to be repudiated, they are both cancerous growths that need to be extirpated through a political battle.

'Irreversible' Economic Reforms Discussed

BK2101151593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Jan 93 p 9

[Commentary by A.M. Khusro: "The unfinished agenda"]

[Text] The economic reforms package of the Narasimha Rao Government was unfolded last year with a lot of fanfare. But now the reform process itself is in danger of being reduced to what might have been. Without political stability and strong support for tough budgetary measures, the nation will be left with an unfinished agenda.

It has been obvious for quite some time that the country could not have continued with the older policy whose end result would be economic disintegration. With a highly over-valued rupee in June 1991, how could the country have exported more and imported less? With ever-rising budget deficit and ever-expanding net credit from the Reserve Bank, how would one close the inflationary tap and export more or provide greater welfare and equity? With outdated labour laws and over-regulation, excessive controls, over-subsidisation and numerous brakes on the economic system, how would one invigorate the supply side and generate more output for domestic stability and export generation?

The package of economic reforms, therefore, focussed on measures of (a) structural reform, (b) fiscal consolidation, including inflation control and (c) balance of payments improvement. Though people talk glibly about non-implementation, these measures have been implemented to a substantial degree and some of them are even irreversible. It is true though that the process of reforms has not been adopted by the State Governments and the lower civil service accepts the deregulation only grudgingly. The pity of it is that even Central Ministries, beyond those of Finance, Commerce and, perhaps, Industry, have neither made any worthwhile effort at deregulation nor acted in line with the overall framework of liberalisation, desubsidisation, decontrol and decentralisation. There are essentially two wings of the Central Government today: of deregulators and over-regulators. In the last 18 months, in respect of economic policies, one heard the names of only two ministers and two ministries—Dr. Manmohan Singh at Finance and Mr. P. Chidambaram at Commerce—and it was only occasionally that some other names were thrown up. The reason is that only the Finance and the Commerce Ministries understood the meaning of structural reform and financial consolidation while the rest seemed to be out of line with the basic philosophy.

Deregulation aims at freeing the supply side of the economy and shifting from demand control to supply augmentation. Deregulation has three aspects: (a) moving away from controlled and administered prices to market forces, (b) shifting from restricted and licensed quantities to larger quantities which the market would supply in a free system and (c) simplification of procedure. There are still numerous areas left in the economy which are in the hands of various ministries, other than Finance, Commerce and Industry, where the controlled prices, licensed quantities and restrictive procedure are order of the day. This is precisely why the ordinary citizen does not notice the difference between the past and the present.

In the realm of urban development and municipal administration, for instance, why have the rent control laws not been modified so as to permit a limited security to the tenants for, say, three to five years, fixity of rents for a similar period with judicious rent enhancements periodically to permit larger incomes and expanded construction of houses both by the landlords and tenants, and freedom on the part of licensed builders and colonisers to undertake construction activity on a national scale so as to move towards an elimination of housing shortage? Why have the urban ceiling laws not been done away with or drastically changed so that numerous plots kept vacant in all parts of the country could be fruitfully used by the government sector, the public as well as the private corporate sector or the housing cooperatives?

Take agriculture. Why has nothing been done to overcome the chronic shortages? Why have we to resign ourselves to the discredited and counter-productive system land ceilings? Why should the Indian farmers be denied the benefits of some economies of scale in the middle range? Why aren't the huge tracts of cultivable but uncultivated waste lands opened up without encroaching on the rights of the present farmers, for corporate investment? After all, the corporate sector can augment commercial production of fruits and vegetables and in such related areas a dairying, animal breeding and fisheries and follow these activities up by establishing processing, canning and export industries. The Ministries of Urban Development, Rural Development and Agriculture should have taken up the strategy of deregulation and helped to shift the economy from a dog-in-the-manger policies of the past so many years to market- oriented, supply-generating arrangements.

The Central and State ministries in charge of national education and training should have come up with policies of freeing the education system from its present ills and create an efficient set-up where the private institutions could play a useful part. Yet, here we are bound to capitation fees and crippled otherwise in respect of provision of educational facilities in specialised areas. Capitation fees and forced donations will continue to be the rule of the day because of the Government's policy inaction.

Coming to the cooperative sector, with 3.5 lakh societies and 92,000 credit societies this should have been allowed to function freely, without fear of supersessions and official interference. These are not the only areas for deregulation but are only cited as examples where there is no clear thinking in the Government on deregulation.

The Central Government must have a detailed agenda of work for the immediate future in terms of working out a rational and sensible exit policy, full convertibility of the rupee, rationalisation of the tax structure, continuance of a rationalised and phased-out programme of subsidies and a judicious reduction in the interest rate structure. Attention has simultaneously to be given to a vigorous push on the front of decontrol and deregulation of numerous sectors.

The Government, obviously, faces a challenge. The reforms initiated are irreversible and we can only go slow but not give up the measures taken. We can, for instance, postpone full convertibility and delay things for a little while. We can implement the exit policy in stages. The subsidies can be reduced in phases. But, the primary goal of reform, the fostering of a globally competitive environment, has to be constantly before us. Policy makers cannot—and are in no position to—say that they will return to the past and to excessive regulation. The reform is a process that has to be continued. There are no ifs and buts.

Former Foreign Affairs Officials Discuss U.S.

BK2101084993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1545 GMT 20 Jan 93

["Dialogue on India-U.S. Relationship" between Abid Hussain, former Indian ambassador in Washington, and Muchkund Dubey, former foreign secretary; carried on the "Spotlight" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on Bush's foreign policy achievements and Clinton's priorities] [Hussain] On taxes, I feel, Muchkund, that though you are right he has said that he is not going to increase taxes, but he has also gone on record to say that he will tax the rich and will give relief to the middle class and the lower class people. While Mr. Bush said read my lips no taxes, I think Clinton can say read my lips and some taxes will be there. And there would, perhaps, be an earnest desire also to cut the defense expenditure and put some of that money in the newer industries or newer technological developments which he would be undertaking.

Now, where trade is concerned I entirely agree with you that protectionism is not there, but at the same time trade blocs are coming in. And when people say fair trade in place of free trade, they are really meaning that some sort of arm twisting will be done in this particular regard. So, therefore, we will have to be careful about it. But where India and America are concerned, I think our relations will continue to warm up. When Mr. Bush came I think he made a departure from the conventional policies of America and showed greater understanding to India's case whether it was in respect of Pakistan or in respect of Kashmir or in respect of human rights. I think Bush was able to understand and appreciate the sensitivities of Indian situation and reacted very well. And my feeling is that Mr. Clinton will also continue this policy.

[Dubey] I think that Democrartic government would really go about more vigorously and aggressively to seek access for American goods and services in foreign markets. And for this purpose it would apply all the leverage that it has at its disposal. And though I am one of the critics of the package concluding the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, I believe that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, and if it becomes possible to do away with unilateral legislations like the U.S. Trade and (?Competitiveness) Act and particularly Section 301, then the scope for the Democratic administration to apply leverages will get very limited. And, therefore, it is in the interest of the rest of the world to see the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations without allowing major trading partners to retain the unilateral discretion to apply restriction.

Now, regarding India I entirely agree with you that our relationship with the United States flourished, prospered in the time of President Bush. The technology agreement, which had been signed during the time of President Reagan, was continued and we got the transfer of a large number of technologies, mainly in the civilian sector. I think in spite of the threats of invoking 301, special and super, in the ultimate analysis it was never invoked. And I think that you played a key role in this.

[Hussain] Supported by you from the South Block [Indian External Affairs Ministry headquarters].

[Dubey] I think that on the whole our trade did pretty well with the United States and you left the United States with a surplus of about a billion dollars with them, if not more.

I think that there was a decisive shift in their position on Kashmir, particularly the emphasis on settling it under bilateral agreement and charging Pakistan about its terrorist activities, and though we we were under pressure on the human rights issue and the nonproliferation issue, I think that the Bush administration did show some understanding of our very special position.

[Hussain] I entirely agree with you. I think one thing which should be clearly understood is that amongst the best of friends, there could be differences. And trade is a matter in which the best of friends have found reasons to argue with each other and, therefore, India should not feel disheartened if a lobby in America insists on its pound of flesh and we from our side want our justice to be done in this particular regard. I will perhaps end up by saying that today Mr. Bush is departing from the United States, but he is not departing as a hated symbol of moral weakness. And today, when Mr. Clinton is entering there, he is not entering only as the last President of the 20th century, but as the first President of 21st century. And, we hope and we look forward to better relations between us and America.

Envoy Hopes Ties With U.S. To Improve Under Clinton

BK1801091493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The Indian ambassador in the United States, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, has expressed confidence that the already improving Indo-American relations will improve further during the Clinton presidency. Speaking at a news conference at Washington, Mr. Ray noted that the two countries share common values of democracy, secularism, and human rights. He welcomed Pakistan being placed on the terrorism watch list by the State Department.

Commentary Views New System of Trade With Russia

BK2101130193 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Commentary by Dr. C.K. Banerjee, executive editor of BUSINESS AND PORTFOLIOS: "New Era in Indo-Russian Trade"]

[Text] India and Russia have more or less decided to give a decent burial to their existing system of bilateral trade based on agreed protocols and predetermined quota of exports and imports. The trade between the two countries beginning January 1993 will be based on freely convertible currency. After the virtual collapse of Indo-Russian trade protocol for 1992, it may not be surprising to see during the forthcoming visit of the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, on 27 January the countries announcing their decision to throw open their bilateral trade to free market.

The issue of Indo-Russia bilateral trade, as also the repayment of India's debt to Russia, was considered at a series of meetings the visiting Russian vice minister for foreign economic relations, Mr. V.D. Shibayev, had with the Indian authorities concerned in New Delhi from 6 to 8 January. The beginning of 1993 may, therefore, well mark new chapter in the trading relations between the two nations, with both agreeing to deal with each other on the basis of freely convertible currency. Russia, as a successor-state of USSR, even during the days of Soviet Union, accounted for 80 percent of India's bilateral trade in the region. Once the two countries decided to trade based on convertible currency, there will be neither any need for a protocol nor any bureaucratic control usually associated with the ticklish system of technical credit, incidentally under the 1992 trade protocol. India had agreed to extend a technical credit of $285 million to Russia to (?cover) select exports from India. However, by 31st December 1992, the day the trade protocol was supposed to have expired formally, India had extended $200 million in technical credit. The remaining $85 million are now being allocated to those who had exported to Russia, but had not received payments. The fact of the two countries agreeing to trade in freely convertible currency was not new. Even during 1992, the enterprises belonging to the two countries used companies based in Singapore to conclude their trade. The 1992 protocol provided for a clearing mechanism based on U.S. dollars. Under this, any export from Russia to India, like petroleum, based on international prices would be paid for by India in the form of goods, again denominated in the same U.S. dollars. However, instead of the two trading partners paying each other in hard currency, an escrow amount was to be paid to finance purchase of goods by either side. Interestingly, Singapore route witnessed a trade quantum which was far higher than even what had been envisaged under the protocol. This also partially explained the nearly 14 percent rise in the Indian exports to GCA [General Currency Area] countries during April-November 1992.

Another aspect of India's economic exchange with Russia that may come in for scrutiny as well as possible agreement during Mr. Yeltsin's visit related to the beginning of the liquidation of India's debts to Russia incurred on supplies made earlier by Russia to India on defense and power equipment. While the debt figure has been estimated at over 370,000 million rupees, with defense alone accounting for 90 percent of it, during Mr. Shibayev's meeting with officials in Delhi, it was suggested that the repayment of the debt could be covered by exports from India. However, the option of repaying part of the debt by exports will depend on the two sides agreeing to a predetermined rupee-ruble exchange rate. Overall, 1993 may see the bilateral trade between India and Russia operating along three lines—hard currency, counter trade with an escrow amount mechanism, and exports to pay back part of the debt India owes to Russia. In any case, the era of trade protocol and technical credits has come to an end.

Iran

Lebanon's Buwayz Praises Iranian Peace Efforts

LD2101190293 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Support for the Popular Resistance in southern Lebanon tops the Lebanese Government's plans, visiting Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here last night.

Buwayz, who arrived here last Tuesday [19 January], praised Iran for its effective role in establishing peace and unity in Lebanon, and added that his government is determined to embark on reconstruction and national unity.

Criticizing international organizations and bodies for their attitude towards the Palestinians, Buwayz said these forums are abused by big powers. He said that it is necessary that world countries mutually cooperate with the aim to confront the existing disorder in the international arena.

Velayati laid emphasis on Iran's support for the national unity of Lebanon and on the significance of regional cooperation in further activating the countries within the framework of regional policies and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

He also voiced satisfaction for the existing stability and tranquility in Lebanon following the end of civil war and bloodshed.

The two ministers further discussed expansion and consolidation of Tehran-Beirut ties and formation of a joint commission with the aim of boosting bilateral cooperation in various domains.

Meets Hamas, Hizballah Representatives

NC2201073793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has welcomed the normalization of relations between Beirut and Tehran. Buwayz, on a four-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, said relations between Iran and Lebanon are now on a state level and progressing. He said Iran intends to upgrade its diplomatic representation in Lebanon to the ambassadorial level.

During a reception at the Lebanese Embassy in Tehran, Buwayz met representatives of Hizballah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Buwayz is expected to continue his talks in Tehran today. Last night he met his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and discussed bilateral relations and regional and international issues of interest to both sides. Buwayz also met 'Imad al-'Alami, Hamas representative in Tehran, who conveyed Hamas' thanks to the Lebanese Government for its firm stand on the deportees and its refusal to give in to Zionist pressure on this. Buwayz told the Hamas representative that Lebanon will not back down on its positions under any circumstances or any pressure. Buwayz said he prefers to highlight the political aspect of the issue more than the humanitarian aspect—for the good of the deportees and to abort any Zionist scheme to expel more Palestinians.

Says Hizballah Problem 'Partially Solved'

NC2201081693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has welcomed the normalization of relations between Beirut and Tehran, a development that he said was made possible because the problem of the Western hostages in Lebanon is over. In an exclusive statement to AFP, Buwayz said relations between Iran and Lebanon are being conducted increasingly on a state level. Two years ago, he pointed out, the two countries had no relations, but Tehran maintained ties with some Lebanese groups, such as Hizballah. Answering a question, Buwayz said the problem of Hizballah's activity in south Lebanon has been partially solved. He said the Iranians have shown genuine understanding of Lebanese decisions. Buwayz said the resistance in south Lebanon is part of a more comprehensive national resistance, adding that resistance should take place in coordination with the government, not sidestep it as in the past.

Buwayz will return to Beirut tomorrow following a stopover in Damascus, where he will meet Syrian officials.

Reportage on Croatian Speaker Mesic's Visit

Comment on Arrival

LD1801185493 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Speaker of the Croatian parliament Stjepan Mesic said here upon arrival today that the only remaining solution to the plight of the people in Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) is military intervention for stopping the Serbian aggression.

He said the Serbs have been trying to describe their military aggression against the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina as an ethnic war with civil identity, but that because the Serbs took up arms first against the Croats and later against Bosnians their behaviour is indicative of their intent for ethnic cleansing.

Mesic said the conflict between Muslims and the Croats is isolated from other developments, and is due mainly to the absence of coordination between the two sides. He said in a bid to curtail those developments a joint headquarters of Muslims and Croats would soon be established.

The Croatian speaker and his delegation are here for discussing parliamentary cooperation between the Islamic republic and Croatia.

Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who welcomed Mesic at Mehrabad Airport, said the two sides would discuss the ways and means for solving sporadic problems arising between the Muslims and the Croats.

Meets President, Majles Speaker

LD1901114993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Excerpts] At a meeting with the president of Croatian Assembly, Mr. Stjepan Mesic, and his accompanying delegation today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The officials of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia should concentrate their efforts on strengthening solidarity and unity between these two republics to repulse the Serbs' aggression.

While stressing that the enemies of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia will take advantage of even minor differences and ultimately the people will become the victims of expansionism and the greed of enemies, the president expressed the hope that after the complete return of peace and tranquillity to the Balkan region, bilateral relations and cooperation would be further strengthened.

At the start of this meeting, the president of the Croatian Assembly thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its assistance to the suffering people of the Balkan region and said: Unfortunately, most of the world countries and international forums showed the same degree of response toward the aggressor and the victim of aggression and even in some cases their response was in favor of the aggressor, which encouraged the morale of aggression and the Serbs' brutality against the Muslims and the Croats.

While enumerating the crimes committed by the Serbs against the Muslims and the Croats, the president of the Croatian Assembly said that these crimes are much worse than the crimes committed in the course of World War II. He added: The Serbs are pursuing the objective of creating a greater Serbia, and it seems unlikely that they would understand any language but that of force and arms.

In conclusion, Mr. Mesic, while stressing that Croatia has officially recognized Bosnia-Hercegovina's independence and territorial integrity and has exchanged ambassadors, said: Minor clashes between the Muslims and the Croats are isolated and stem from some lack of coordination. We are striving to remove the minor discords, so as to witness greater future unity between the two countries vis-a-vis the Serbs' aggression.

Croatian Assembly President Stjepan Mesic, at a meeting with the speaker of the Majles, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, today said that the objective of his visit to Iran is to expand bilateral relations and to exchange views with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the Balkan region of Europe. Referring to the fact that the Croats and the Muslims stand against the third largest army in the world [as received] with their minimum of military resources, Mr. Mesic described the Serbs' aggressive objectives, wishing to create a greater Serbia. He criticized the international organizations for turning a blind eye in the face of so many crimes. [passage omitted]

Afterward, Mr. Nateq-Nuri praised the Muslims and Croats for standing against the racist Serbs. Referring to the double standard of the international forums and particularly the UN Security Council in the face of the crimes committed by the Serbs, Mr. Nateq-Nuri asked for the lifting of the ban on arms shipment to Bosnia-Hercegovina. He also stressed the need for parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

Majles Speaker's Dinner Speech

LD1901225493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] At a dinner reception in honor of the Croatian Parliament speaker in Tehran, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri made a speech in which he stressed: In accordance with her foreign policy the Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the wish of nations to determine their own fate. In the course of the implementation of that same policy, before other Muslim and Asian countries and members of the Nonaligned Movement, Iran recognized your country's independence, and, subsequently, mutual ties have been fast expanding in less than a year.

The Majles speaker described the Croatian Parliament speaker's visit to Tehran as a turning point in bilateral relations and a very important factor in speeding up the expanding trend of ties between the two countries. He stated: If the Serbian aggression against your country has resulted in the Croatian nation suffering sacrifices and damage for the sake of preserving their independence, it has become apparent to the world people that, with resolve, nations will triumph over aggressors.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always called on the international community and supporters of justice in the world to take steps to regain the rights of the people of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina which have been trampled on by the Serbs and to punish the aggressors to prevent the recurrence of any form of aggression in the future. He stressed: Undoubtedly, closer and friendlier ties between the peoples of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina would negate the plan to create Greater Serbia.

Finally, he declared Iran's readiness to play any role as requested by Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina to establish peace in that region and combat Serbian aggressors.

Then Mr. Stipe Mesic, the speaker of the Croatian Parliament, thanked the Majles speaker for his remarks and the warm welcome afforded him in Iran.

Discusses Problems With Velayati

LD2001230593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] In the course of his visit to Iran, Croatian Assembly President Stjepan Mesic has held talks with Iranian Minister for Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati, about the crisis in the area of the former Yugoslavia, especially Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Iranian minister pointed to Croatia's role and position in resolving the crisis in the area of the former Yugoslavia. President Mesic explained in detail Croatia's standpoint on the need to immediately stop the aggression and achieve a political solution in Bosnia- Hercegovina. His hosts agreed that, to this end, it is necessary to overcome the current Croat-Muslim conflict and consolidate the alliance of the two threatened peoples in Bosnia-Hercegovina so as to enable the international community to take resolute political and other measures to restore peace and the three peoples' political agreement on the basis of the proposed solution of the Geneva conference.

In Mesic's view, such an orientation requires restraint and a constructive approach on the part of both the Muslim and Croatian sides. The Iranian minister agreed with the view that failure of the Geneva process would lead to further escalation of the conflict. He believes that all the countries which have influence on the policies of any individual national community in Bosnia-Hercegovina can contribute to a just and lasting political solution.

Prior to this the Croatian delegation, including Croatian Ambassador to Iran Osman Muftic, Ambassador Hidajet Biscevic, and executives of several leading Croatian firms, had a number of working meetings in the ministries of oil, internal affairs, construction, and defense. In the course of all these talks both sides expressed their mutual interest in expanding economic cooperation.

Mesic Ends Visit, Departs

LD2101121193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Stipe Mesic, speaker of the Croatian parliament, ended his official visit to our country this morning and left Tehran. He was formally seen off by Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri.

Before leaving Tehran he described his talks with the Iranian authorities as positive and expressed optimism about the expansion of mutual ties. He also invited the Majles speaker to visit Croatia, which was accepted.

Speaking about the outcome of Mr. Mesic's visit, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: Iran and Croatia have reached agreements on forming parliamentary friendship groups and scientific, cultural, economic, and industrial cooperation.

About Bosnia-Hercegovina he said:

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] The crimes of the Serbs were discussed and condemned, and the manysided policies of the international forums were criticized. The isolated and regional clashes between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Hercegovina were also discussed. It was stressed that, God willing, those isolated clashes will come to an end and Muslims and Croats will stand together against their common enemy, the Serbs, and attain their just rights. [end recording]

At the end of Mr. Stipe Mesic's visit a joint communique, which contained the agreements reached and the common stands of the speakers of the two parliaments, was signed by the two sides.

Statement on Cooperation Adopted With Georgia

LD2001181093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] At the conclusion of the Georgian president's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, a statement on the principles of friendship and cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Georgia was signed by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, president of Georgia's State Councli.

The statement on the principles of friendship and cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Georgia, composed of 22 articles, has drawn up the principles of cooperation in various political, commercial, economic, scientific and cultural fields between the two countries for a period of 10 years.

Iran, Georgia Plan Gulf, Caspian, Black Sea Link

LD2101201493 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Iran and Georgia have decided to forge a link via their respective territories between the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea and Black Sea.

According to a 5-point agreement signed here yesterday between President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and chairman of the Georgian State Council of Ministers, Eduard Shevardnadze, before the latter's departure, the two sides called on all Persian Gulf and Black Sea littoral states to cooperate in restoration of tranquility in the region.

Transit facilities and trade routes between the Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea and the Black Sea are to be studied.

The agreement also calls for cooperation of the two sides in the international forums, and states that Iran and Georgia will cooperate in promoting political stability in the former Soviet Republics.

The two countries are expected to hold a joint commission and annual meetings at the foreign ministerial level.

Based on the agreement the two neighbors will also offer necesseary assistance to upgrade their parliamentary relations.

The agreement also underlined the need for bilateral cooperation in various sectors such as oil, gas, trade, economy, transportation, industry, agriculture and banking.

Sudan's Foreign Minister Meets With President

LD2101121893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Sudan's Foreign Minister Ahmad Sahlul this morning. According to a Central News Unit report, during this meeting, which was also attended by our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, the Sudanese foreign minister presented a written report to our country's president from Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir. Mr. Sahlul also presented a report to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments in the region and Sudan.

While expressing gratitude for the support given by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the people of Sudan, Mr. Sahlul said the objective of his visit is to hold talks and exchange views with the officials of the Islamic Republic on regional issues and on expanding cooperation.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr. al-Bashir for his friendly message and stressed the importance of maintaining Sudan's territorial integrity and the creation of a friendly atmosphere among the countries of the region. The president also welcomed the expansion of cooperation and strengthening of ties with Sudan.

Mr. Ahmad Salul, who arrived in Tehran yesterday, held his first round of talks with Mr. Velayati today.

Call for Solution to Muslim Issues

LD2101222493 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed Tehran-Khartoum bilateral relations and cooperation in a meeting here today.

Sahlul voiced Sudan's readiness to expand ties with Iran in the fields of economy and trade and called for the Islamic Republic's cooperation with his country at international forums.

He referred to the crimes being committed against the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Palestine, Somalia and in other parts of the world and called on the Islamic world to support the oppressed Muslims and remove their problems.

Velayati agreed with Sahlul regarding the plight of Muslims worldwide including the recent deportation of 417 Palestianians by the Zionist usurpers, and blasted international bodies for their double standards towards various issues.

He also underlined preservation of Sudan's territorial integrity and expressed hope that the country's problems would be peacefully settled.

The Iranian official also hailed expansion of Irano-Sudanese bilateral ties.

Sahlul arrived here last night heading a ranking delegation.

Pakistan Official Discusses Afghanistan With Velayati

LD2001163493 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shahryar Khan in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday called for Tehran-Islamabad consultation and cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to restore peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

Velayati said that restoration of peace in certain ECO member countries would create better atmosphere for regional cooperation.

The two officials also discussed situation in the Persian Gulf and attack of Hindu extremists on Muslims, and called for guaranteeing rights of Indian Muslims and reconstruction of the 16th century Babri Mosque demolished by Hindu extremists last month.

Khan Calls For End to Kabul Clashes

LD2001172493 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—The latest developments in Afghanistan was discussed here Wednesday in a meeting between the visiting Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Shahryar Mohammad Khan and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Ala'eddin Borujerdi. Both sides expressed concern over continuation of the recent clashes in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

In light of the prevailing conditions in the world and the region and poor economic situation in Afghanistan, the clashes should be halted immediately and the crisis be settled through negotiation and understanding, Borujerdi said. He further expressed hope that the Afghan mojahedin groups will lay down their weapons and engage in negotiation for the sake of the Afghan nation.

Borujerdi referring to great number of Afghan refugees living in Iran and Pakistan and their long borders with Afghanistan, called for continued consultations between the Iranian and Afghan officials.

Shahryar Khan expressed his country's concern over the future of Afghanistan and said, "we will continue our efforts to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan." He added that an immediate end to the fightings will be in the interest of the Afghan people.

Hungarian Labor Minister Holds Talks With Habibi

LD1701231293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Hungarian Labor Minister Gyula Kiss met First Vice President Habibi in Tehran on Sunday afternoon and expressed his country's interest in expanding bilateral relations in various fields.

Mr. Habibi then noted the historical and cultural relations between the two countries and the significant position of Hungary in Europe. He said the expansion of relations between the two countries would be positive and added that Iran and Hungary could be good trading partners.

The first vice president also expressed regret over the tragedy taking place in Bosnia-Hercegovina and said that truly independent countries should take practical steps regarding this tragedy.

Signs Letter of Understanding

LD1801104993 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Hungary's Labour Minister Gyula Kiss, wound up his 4-day visit to Tehran today after signing a letter of understanding on mutual labour relations with his Iranian counterpart Hasan Kamali. The letter underlines mutual technical and occupation cooperation.

In an earlier meeting with Kiss on Sunday, Iran's first vice-president, Hasan Habibi, called on Eastern European countries to engage in reconstruction activities "instead of falling into the trap of arrogant states' plots." Referring to the chaotic status of some East European countries, he commented that they shouldn't lose the opportunity for reconstruction.

Habibi termed as positive the trend of bilateral relations with Hungary, hoping that the two countries would establish good economic and trade ties.

Deploring what was going on in Bosnia-Hercegovina, he called on independent countries to take practical measures to do something about the catastrophe.

The Hungarian minister in reply expressed his country's interest in promoting relations with Iran on economic, trade and commercial areas.

Larijani Discusses Clinton, U.S.-Iraq Ties

LD2101221693 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1650 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Studio interview with Majles Deputy Dr. Javad Larijani, former deputy foreign minister and member of the Supreme National Security Council, by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Mr. Larijani, there have been different assessments of U.S. and Iraqi objectives with regard to the current crisis. What is your analysis of the situation? What specific aims are America and Iraq following?

[Larijani] [passage omitted] A more accurate question would have been to ask what is going on in the minds of Baghdad and Washington politicians and how their actions can be explained. They usually refer to this method as simulation of political thoughts and decisions.

As to what went on in the political minds of Baghdad's rulers, I believe a rational simulation of the state of their minds could be this: There were at least two important factors affecting their decision-making. One was the belief of Baghdad politicians that Clinton would not continue Bush's policy. Moreover, this could have been be a chance for them to deal with the new U.S. President on new terms [last word in English]. All the words of Baghdad's rulers point to this. Saddam started this move after his second defeat. He announced: We can work with the new leadership. For example, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, who was interviewed last week, said: Mr. Bush bears a personal enmity toward Saddam and Iraq, but we don't have any problems with the Clinton administration and we can start to work with them. So it was important for them to try their luck with the new administration.

What was their purpose? Their purpose was for the U.S. Government to accept Saddam's regime under whatever conditions were acceptable to them, and for Saddam's regime to once again continue its sovereignty over the whole of Iraq.

The other factor was Saddam's fear of the disintegration of Iraq. Of course, I believe the disintegration of Iraq is a considerable part of U.S. and British policy. In any case, the Iraqis are really scared of this. They felt the Bush administration did pursue the policy of disintegration. And the Baghdadis believed that disintegration would not be a bad thing for the West. They [the West] could create a new Kuwait around the oil wells in northern Iraq, they could create another Kuwait around the southern oil fields of Iraq.

The creation of such so-called small countries around oil resources has been very beneficial to the West. They have had sweet success from this move so far. Moreover, they could keep Iraq as a poor state in the middle. They could even keep Saddam in the middle so that the shaykhs they set up to the north and south would not feel calm and would require someone to rely on—the United States itself. It would be the Americans who would take the oil money and provide weapons for the shaykhs.

Baghdad politicians felt that Bush might hasten to start this process. They thought the process might start with provocations in either the north, but especially in the south. So, they transferred missiles to the south. I believe their rapid movement of missiles to the south was noticeable. They thought this would delay the disintegration of Iraq until the Clinton administration takes over, and they hoped to get somewhere with Clinton's administration.

These two points explain Saddam's actions to a certain extent, whether regarding the missile provocation or his political stance. They thought a Democratic administration would not mind exposing the failures of the previous administration, so the new government should have new policies.

As to whether those ideas were right or wrong: In my view, the first part of it—to expect a major change in Clinton's policy regarding Baghdad—is a great political mistake. Unfortunately, the Baghdad government has thus far made some real [nab], very big, and costly mistakes. Its biggest mistake, of course, was to attack Iran. The attack on Kuwait was another mistake. The next mistake is this one, the one they have just made. It is not unlikely that America's deception has had an effect in all these mistakes. By attacking Iran, the Americans deceived Iraq. The same applies to Kuwait: there are some indications that the signals [English word used] Washington sent to Baghdad deceived them.

In the current development—that is the expectation that Clinton will make a major change in his approach to Saddam's regime—even here in my view some signals that have been sent in their contacts are likely to have deceived them and drag them into that action.

As for the second concern—which is the dismemberment of Iraq—in my view, they are right to be concerned. There is reason for the Baghdad government to be concerned, but the solution is definitely not to bring about such a situation. Of course...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Excuse me, would you talk about Washington's objectives.

[Larijani] Well this was, briefly, the "simulation" [English word used] of the political thought in Baghdad. But how can we simulate this political thought in Washington? In my view, we must start with the Bush-era model and see why they must change that.

The developments now happening in our region are very important for Washington's interests. In the first place, they consolidate Washington's domination over the region's oil resources, and this is a most strategic intention in U.S. policy. And it is not only economic. Of course, from the economic point of view it is most vital for the U.S. economy that very cheap money—in reality an extremely brutal and disgraceful plunder—be regularly injected into the U.S. economy. Billions of dollars! This is vital for the U.S. economy. And if we consider Clinton's election campaign, we see that the U.S. economy was an extremely influential issue. The consolidation of U.S. domination in the region has extremely important effects.

The next point: Respect for the national sovereignty of the countries [of the region] is to be destroyed. It is an extremely important strategy for the United States to promote the concept they have of a new world structure. I find a change in this development to be unlikely unless the Americans hit a snag. Otherwise they intend to declare the West as the master and manager of the world, and to see themselves as the head of the West.

The way the United Nations is assisting this strategy in our region is most disgraceful and dangerous. I believe that the countries of the world must be most concerned that the United Nations is in practice destroying the concept of sovereignty. The UN is even doubting [existing sovereignties]. They say the nation state is European concept and ask why sovereignty is determined on this basis. This may be true, but the question is—on what basis should we define sovereignty? This is where the UN's new changes are happening.

The next issue is to control the Islamic movement. In all these three fields, these changes are important for the United States. Therefore, I think the new administration will follow this route. In other words, we cannot expect a significant change in U.S. policy toward Baghdad to take place swiftly. And the dismemberment of Iraq will remain a serious issue in Iraq's political development scene. This, of course, (?would be) a most important phenomenon, which would have a very deep effect on the region's political structure.

[Presenter] [passage omitted] George Bush's term of office as President ended last night. The most important event during Bush's Presidency was the crisis in the Persian Gulf. What negative and positive consequences will the Bush's administration have left for Bill Clinton's presidency?

[Larijani] As you pointed out, sending troops to the Persian Gulf—in fact, I believe we can talk of the occupation of this region, especially of Kuwait—and the direct, open U.S. involvement in all the issues of the Persian Gulf, particularly in Arab countries, was a very important and dangerous step by the Bush administration.

Of course, they have already reaped a harvest from this; although there is a shaykh sitting on top of every oil well, they made a $1 billion financial profit from what is in fact Islamic wealth, since the oil extracted there belongs to the Islamic world. They did this easily. In an age when there is hardly a market for military hardware, an age when money has to be paid to transform gift-wrapped tanks to bulldozers, they are selling their military hardware in the region. Their only aim here can be financial profit, because they have already secured their domination of the region.

Clinton has taken over under these circumstances. I doubt whether this is the most important issue with regard to internal U.S. policy [as heard]. This goes back to a fundamental point in American thinking. Do Americans want to claim to be the lords of the world; and to lead the world? I think Clinton's answer to this is positive. Should they continue on the same path to reach this objective? In other words, does America's lordship come from securing and strengthening political domination outside its borders?

The answer changes this time. The Clinton administration believes that lordship will be kept by the one who can strengthen the economy and industry. [passage omitted] There are some pressing economic problems in the United States: factories are going bust, output is plummeting, and their technology is outdated. How can these problems be fixed?

In some cases, they must look abroad to find a quick cure. And in these cases, milking regions such as the Persian Gulf can have important effects on the reconstruction and return of America's lost economic strength. I therefore believe that we can see the situation like this: From the moment that Clinton takes over, the economic and industrial strength of America will be at the top of his agenda. And in order to achieve this, he needs quick results. In order to achieve these results quickly, he will be forced to continue the same policies in the Persian Gulf region with strength. So we can expect more arms sales to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the [United Arab] Emirates. We can expect the greater milking of these states. We can expect a higher production of oil and a reduction in its price. [passage omitted]

This means that the Americans are not insisting on removing Saddam right away; unless Iraqi developments bring this about naturally. Of course, the people of Iraq are once again under double oppression. The people need a leadership that will rebuild that ruined country. The Iraqis are a historic and worthy people. The oppressed Muslims and Shiites of Iraq—and the non-Shiites—are doubly oppressed, and world events do not allow them to build their country. They don't want this country to exist. This is one of the greatest betrayals which has been imposed on this Muslims people by political hands inside and outside Iraq.

[Correspondent] With regard to what was said, how do you see the future of the region?

[Larijani] Very well. The future of the region should be assessed on the basis of the events which are currently taking place in the region. The present situation in Iraq cannot last; something has to happen there. Of course, the best case for Iraq would be for a popular government to be established, which could bring peace to the region. Unfortunately, it seems that the interests of many countries would not be served if that happens. The disintegration of Iraq, if it takes place, would be a source of tension.

The United States' blatant interference in the Persian Gulf is causing instability. All governments, in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other places, are facing stability problems. [passage omitted]

The level of Turkey's involvement in the attacks [mo'arezat], with its bases and other things, can bring the same problems for Turkey. Therefore I envisage that if the same policy continues, we can expect major insecurity and turbulence [English word used] from Turkey to Iraq and the southern Persian Gulf states in the future and even within the next one or two years. It is even possible that the United States will change some of these governments.

Thus, Iran's outstanding position becomes even clearer in the region. That is, our policies, our interests, and our position are such that Iran enjoys outstanding security in terms of political stability and interest, as well as new grounds and extensive outlooks which are currently evident in our international activities.

Of course, the best situation for Iran and the region would be for a popular government to come to power in Iraq, and for the influence and interference and the presence of foreign forces to be removed from the Persian Gulf. This would enable us to get together with an Iraqi government which is trusted by the people of Iraq and with the southern states of the Persian Gulf in a regional collective bloc [tajammo']. Such a collective bloc would be based on the pillars of strategy, security, and—most important of all—development. In that case the Persian Gulf region would become the bride of the world regions and the strongest region of the world.

That is our strategy. Unfortunately, the United States, the West, and incompetent regional governments, who cannot comprehend the interests of the Islamic ummah—or even their own interests—have so far pulled the plug on our strategy. We hope that when the current period of tension surrounding us has ended, we can reach a situation where a strong, rich, and influential Persian Gulf region finds its place in the world. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Clinton's Inaugural Address

NC2101191393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Urdu 1330 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: As you have heard in the news, Bill Clinton took the oath of office yesterday and entered the White House as the 42d President of the United States.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Clinton spoke of renewal and dramatic changes in his brief address. Alluding to Thomas Jefferson's opinions—that we need dramatic changes for preserving the very foundations of our nation—Clinton stated that the time had come for such changes.

In this address, the new U.S. President promised reforms within the economic structure of the country that will not be very easy to fulfill in light of the domestic situation in the United States and international circumstances. Regardless of the propaganda aspects of the internal situation, the part of Clinton's address devoted to his government's foreign policy is quite important.

Regarding his administration's foreign policy, he said: To renew America, we must meet challenges abroad as well as at home. He added: Today, there is no longer a clear division between what is foreign and what is domestic. Clinton stated that if fundamental and vital U.S. interests are challenged or if the will and conscience of the community is defied, then we will act with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with military force when necessary.

If we consider this segment of new U.S. President's speech as a criterion of our analysis and judgment, then it would conjure up a vision of a world more turbulent than in the past, in which international peace and security will remain in disarray because of the U.S. military policy. But it is no secret to anyone that there always has been a dichotomy in the slogans and deeds of the White House. Therefore, it is expected that the Democratic Party's government will be more realistic in its approach to international issues than the Republican government.

The Democratic administration which has come to power after 12 years knows full well that U.S. policies [as heard] are increasing daily and that at present it is the world's largest debtor nation. Therefore, this issue could become the focus of its planning. Clinton is well aware that leading a world he has described as a free world is not possible without economic stability and strength. In his inaugural address after taking the oath of office, he referred, however, to domestic issues and foreign policy as being linked to one another. This means that any deviation from those political problems which George Bush has bequeathed to Clinton will not be easy.

Clinton's appeal to the American people that they should work harder for less, can also be considered significant in the light of the aforementioned point. It is being speculated that this will form the cornerstone of the Democratic administration.

The United States is an ailing world power and the symptoms of its illness are manifest in the form of a tendency to run away from its own domestic problems, such as its economic malaise, as well as in its technology and industry in the face of new and stronger competitors who have surmounted their tribulations with fortitude.

Clinton is demanding sacrifices from a nation which—contrary to his expectations—does not hold the same values which are respected and welcomed in other countries of the world, but is characterized by violence and barbarism. If Clinton continues the Bush administration's double-dealing and militaristic policy in sensitive areas of the world such as the Middle East, the Balkans, and Bosnia-Hercegovina, there will be no doubt that his successors will blame him for the U.S. internal problems and difficulties and the exacerbation of poverty and destitution in the deprived strata of U.S. society.

In any case, the people of the world await a change in the U.S. policy of violence and a new set of circumstances in which the United States will enter the international arena in a more noble manner in its capacity as a great country so that it can assist in establishing peace in the world.

U.S. Policy of 'Blocking, 'Deterring' Iran Seen

NC2201095093 Tehran ABRAR (International Supplement) in English 14 Jan 93 p 12

[Editorial by Ruzbeh Bolhari: "America's Policy of Besieging Iran"]

[Excerpts] With the start of presidency of Bill Clinton, the American Democratic president-elect, various guidelines are being given by the Pentagon, State Department and even retired statesmen of the country to formulate a specific strategy for the White House in order to confront and guide global changes. The region which is most under focus of the Americans is the Middle East: provision of security for the West in Persian Gulf and future role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region. [passage omitted]

The point that can be discerned from the statements and analyses of America officials is that America will pursue a policy of "blocking or deterring" Iran.

As such a policy was used by Washington against the former Soviet Union, we can easily realize the principles and structures of this policy. [passage omitted]

Thus, we can deduce that American methods to destroy and eliminate militant Islam in various regions will be as follows:

1. Tajikistan (Central Asia): Strengthening of opposition parties, even communists, to fight Muslim combatants, and creation of a body similar to the NATO alliance in Central Asia to confront Islamic tensions. In the last months of 1992, Manfred Woerner, the secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) called for creation of a similar alliance in Central Asia. Creation of such an alliance including the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan under conditions when these republics intend to separate from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) can be a defensive shield against Iranian influence.

2. Lebanon and Palestine: Activities of Islamic groups such as Hizballah, Amal, Islamic Amal of Lebanon, Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Palestine foster the growth of Islam and endanger the Western interests; this is especially true because every round of Middle East peace talks end in deadlock and without results. Therefore the objective of destroying or deactivating Islamic groups or parties in the region is of special importance to the West.

Simultaneous with the Israeli military attacks on Lebanon and the occupied territories to destroy the militant Islamic movement, America is giving concessions to Syria. It is pressuring Israel to compromise with Syria on the issue of the Golan Heights; and the participation of Damascus' military forces in the Persian Gulf dragged Syria into the Western camp and prevented boosting of Iran's cooperation with the militant Islamic groups.

3. North and East Africa: The West, specially America, have so far tried to use military dictatorships or liberalization of Western-affiliated governments to confront the Islamic movement in Algeria and Tunisia. But due to the establishment of Islamic sovereignty in Sudan and continuation of Islamic struggles in Egypt and Algeria, the U.S. invaded militarily the Horn of Africa region, which is of great strategic importance. In this way the U.S. wants to prevent further growth of Islamism and preserve peace and stability in this region. In fact, the main aim is to guarantee security of Western interests in the Bab al-Mandab and Red Sea areas.

4. India: Increasing differences between India and countries like Pakistan and Iran over issues such as Kashmir and the Babari Mosque, has led New Delhi to adopt a more pro-western approach by establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and performing joint military maneuvers with the U.S. in the Indian Ocean. The U.S. policy is to increase the role played by India and make this country the "policeman of the Indian Ocean". However the U.S. will continue to give importance to its base in the Diego Garcia Island as well as the Persian Gulf and Southeast Asia, in order to preserve a security balance. Transforming India into a pro-U.S. country is tantamount to creating a block before Iran in the east, as well as for Pakistan.

5. Iraq: With the help of Western support and propaganda the Islamic-national opposition groups of Iraq are trying to take power. But the meeting of opposition groups held in Salah-al-Din, in Irbil in northern Iraq, showed clearly that moderate and pro-Western parties like that of Ahmad Shalabi may come to power with Western help to keep Iraq secular. Any effort by Islamic and nationalist groups to take power in Iraq will face Western and Arab reaction and opposition. A joint Arab military force comprised of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states plus Syria and Egypt may be stationed in the region.

6. Persian Gulf: This strategic region (which will remain so for many years to come) is vital for the West. This is the most important area where America will be facing Iran. Among the tactics used by America are efforts to implement the Damascus Declaration and creation of joint military force by the PGCC, Syria and Egypt, creation of military bases and alliances with Kuwait and other shaykhdoms.

Meanwhile, here we must point out the role of Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Russia too. Turkey and Azerbaijan have the "duty" to prevent the so-called "expansion of Iranian influence" and Russia also plays a "deterrent" role against Iran in the Caucasus and Central Asian region.

Thus, the scenario is completed and Iran is surrounded politically and militarily in every direction by the West, particularly by the U.S.

Iran's Options

What actions can Iran take to confront these provocative and intimidating U.S. intentions, policies and actions?

A specialist on the region's geopolitical situation has reached the conclusion that there is possibility for maneuver by Iran in the two regions of Persian Gulf and Central Asia, to guard its national security and at the same time to play a role in preserving stability and peace in the countries of these regions. The following moves can be taken:

A: Central Asia—Creation of a Common Market with the participation of Iran, China, Central Asian republics and Pakistan. Such a market may be named the "Silk Road Common Market." In addition to lessening Western influence in this region, creation of such a common market can reduce the fears of instability and unrest in the newly-independent states; it can also be an effective way to confront Western economic pressures and sanctions.

B: Persian Gulf—Analysis has shown that any kind of arms race or militarism in the region is a threat to the region's stability and peace. The best example is that of Iraq in the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s decade. As the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have pointed out repeatedly, the militarist stance adopted by the Arab shaykhs of the Persian Gulf, signing of security alliances with Western powers and allowing foreign military presence in the region all serve to further strain tensions in the region. Another factor causing tension is overlooking Tehran's important role in guaranteeing security in the Persian Gulf. Here, a proposal that seems very practical is "demilitarization" of the entire Persian Gulf region; the implementation of such a proposal can start only with the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region. Only through the cleansing of foreign military presence in the region can peace and security return to the Persian Gulf.

Khamene'i Criticizes Western Attacks on Iraq

LD2101150893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Address by Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to senior civil and military officials on the occasion of the Mab'ath festival on 21 January; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today hundreds of voices and pens—worldwide and financed by the wealth of the colonial establishment—try to speak against spirituality, religion, and Islam, against any Islamic movement. They pretend that the existing material order of the world, the existing lawless order imposed on the world, is good and there is no need to even scratch this system.

Is not humanity today in need of a divine revival? Doesn't man want to purify himself today? Isn't it a shame for the ranks of man that everyone, wherever they maybe, seek the comfort for their own and the misery for others? Isn't it a shame that idealism has no place among them, that they are satisfied with what they have, that man has to hold fast to a piece of bread in the fear that a more lawless element might come and take it away from him and eat it? Is this good? Is this sort of a world, this sort of an order, and this sort of international order the promised land? Shouldn't one do something about this, reform it, and correct it? Shouldn't humanity make a move, start a revival?

Today in the world—at least the important parts of the world—and in the true meaning of the word, the law of the jungle rules. There is no justice. Look and see this earth, this globe. In one place you see that they are killing a people, a nation, a nation of several million people, young and old, men and women, the ill and the healthy, all of them. Their houses are being destroyed. The honor of their women is violated. They have no medicine, no food, no comfort, no security. Their houses are bombarded by the enemy. There is no world reaction, in the true meaning of the word.

This is the very bitter and tragic event of Bosnia-Hercegovina today. Why are the Serbs are attacking them? Do they have a rationale for their behavior? Even if they had an ethnic rationale, this was not the way. Even if they had a religious rationale, this was not the way. They try to completely destroy another nation, wherever they may be, to place them in camps, to strip them of any respect. This indicates savagery and the real rule of the law of the jungle.

Yes, when the Serbs attacked the Bosnian Muslims, if from all over the world—from Europe, America, Asia, Muslim countries, and so forth—they had put up serious resistance and gone in and punished the Serbs that would have been good. It would have shown that although there is corruption in the world there is also growth and health. We saw that such a thing did not happen. That was an example.

Or, in our neighborhood, Iraq, which is now the victim of savages of the world, which has 10 times the historical and cultural background and past glory of those who, claiming to own the world, have entered that country—which should be said is without owner, unfortunately—from all sides, bombed, attacked, killed, destroyed historical monuments, killed innocent people, and trampled on sanctities. It is Iraq, this is not a joke. There are 15 or 16 million people in that country. It is a country with culture. In terms of the level of human culture, it is acceptable.

Why is it that because a number of unsuitable and, to be fair, wicked people rule that country those powers give them the right to come and subject that country and that nation to assault and aggression in such a way? Is that not savagery? By what logic does the United States say We have come to punish Iraq. Who are you? Who in the world should punish you? If you give yourselves the right to interfere in global issues and think that you are the custodians of the Security Council and wish to implement its resolutions, why do you deal with Israe? Why have you turned a blind eye to the crimes that Israel is committing against the Palestinians every day? Isn't that the law of the jungle? Isn't it bullying? Isn't this world one of savagery and ignorance? Doesn't this world need prophetic mission? Isn't God's religion needed by the people today? If God's religion is not needed then what prescription could save mankind? What prescription could influence the hearts of people and those faithful to it so strongly that they could stand up to the world's strong powers?

Look at how Muslims are standing steadfast today, wherever they are. Look at how the Islamic Republic—because it is aware of divine grace and the Koran and because its officials and people rely on God and believe in God—stands against the bellowings of the world's bullies. No other element but religion could stand against the madness of today's world and today's powerful. That mission is also needed today. Humankind today should undergo internal change and purification and, at the same time, the social system should change into a just and fair one. It is not justice and fairness that prevails in the world but injustice. They have filled the world with injustice committed against meek nations.

I would like to say a few words to you, dear brothers, who are in charge of the Islamic Republic. It is only you who can stand steadfast against this power that relies on force. But you will only be able to do this on the condition that you move along this straight path, committed with all your beings and in your resolves, to Islamic tenets that bring salvation and adhering to Islamic tenets without minding or apologizing to anyone. This is the lesson that Islam tought us. This is the lesson that our esteemed imam taught us after 14 centuries, in his manner and speech. It is not for nothing that they were so hostile to the imam and that they are still hostile against the Islamic Republic and against the banner of Islam in the hands of the Islamic Republic.

The banner of Islam is in the hands of people who are compromisers and are affilated and belong to them. They leave these people alone. They do not cause losses to their livestock. They do not fear them or mind them. They are not hostile to them. But they are hostile towards the Islamic Republic, towards its leading personalities, its government, people, president, Majles, its judicial system and judicial officials, and with everything that makes this system stands on its feet. They are also to your slogans—they make fun of the slogan "Promoting virtue and prohibiting evil." They made fun of and accusations against Hezbollahi slogans. But the truth is that it is that same: promotion of virtue and prohibition of evil and that same Hezbollahi movement and adherence to principles which can stand against these notorious deviations and sins of today's world. Nothing else can and this is what nations want.

The mission is a feast for us; that is, it is the return of a movement, a new movement. This is the meaning of the feast. It is to recall that which had disappeared from our memories in the course of centuries, and Muslims today can find life again thanks to Islam's blessings. If Islamic states resort to Islam, then nations will support them with all their beings. It is then that they will be able to stand against these bullyings. Global arrogance expects today to do what it did to Iraq to any country which may do something that may slightly threaten her interests. What is it that stops them? A brave and resistant nation, a nation linked to its government. If these disgraced leaders of Iraq had their nation behind them, their destiny would have been different. The path to the glory of the world of Islam is to return to the message of the mission. May God grant us success along this path and the path of justice and may he bless us with his favor. May God's mercy be upon you.

UN Criticized for Failure To Protect Muslims

LD2201133193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The Friday prayers rites were held in various cities and areas of the country in the presence of masses of worshippers. During the Friday prayers in Tehran, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani embarked on an elaboration of the issues and problems of the world Muslims, including the massacre and suppression of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Lebanon, Palestine, and the tyrannized Iraqi nation, and criticized the United Nations for shirking its duties regarding the suppressive actions of the Serbs, the Zionist regime, and America.

Referring to the fact that the UN Charter considers that organization to be responsible for eliminating aggression against the nations of the world and confronting aggressor governments, he said: The world is now witnessing the massacre of the innocent people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Lebanon, and Palestine. The question is: What has the United Nations done about the use of force and intimidation by the Serbs and Zionists and their supporters?

He reminded: The Muslim nations have no sanctuary except for Islam and they themselves must stand up against force and the bayonet of world arrogance and its agents through reliance on divine power. Thusly, the plans of hegemonist and aggressor powers will surely face defeat.

Tehran's ad hoc Friday imam also stressed the need for questioning by all Muslims—especially Muslim writers and thinkers—of the United Nation's weak stance regarding the massacre and suppression of the defenseless Bosnian and Palestinian nations, in order to change that organization's position.

In another part of the sermons, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, referring to the imminent 14th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, said: The 22d of Bahman [11 February] revolution, under the miraculous leadership of the late imam [Ayatollah Khomeyni] and the people's self-sacrifice, brought eternal greatness to the Iranian nation. It is incumbent on each and every one of us to attach great importance to this glorious and destiny-making day and keep the blood of the martyrs alive and continue their path by being extensively present in the arena and relying on Islam.

In the first sermon, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, while congratulating the prophetic mission of the honorable prophet, God's blessing be upon him and his scion, elaborated on the issues of prophetic mission and the prophet's ascent to heaven.

Iran, Syria, Turkey Meeting To Be Held in Damascus

LD1901183093 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 19, IRNA—Foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey will hold a tripartite meeting to discuss the situation in Iraq next month in Damascus. The Lebanese daily AL-SAFIR quoting a high ranking Syrian official today said that Saudi Arabia is also expected to join the meeting. The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria had stressed the need for unity and territorial integrity of Iraq during last meeting in this connection in Istanbul in November 1992.

Security Forces Arrest 'Spies' From Iraq

NC1701122593 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17 (AFP)—Iranian authorities have arrested several "groups of spies" who entered the country from Iraq, Iran's intelligence and security minister said in remarks published here Sunday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahiyan told the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI that "details on the members of these spy groups, who wanted to plant bombs in Iran, will be published later." But he did not specify their nationalities or provide other details. Iran and Iraq fought a bloody eight-year war that ended in 1988.

Fallahiyan, who was visiting Lorestan in southwestern Iran, also said members of "ten corruption networks criminals and gangsters" had been arrested in the province.

The suspects are charged with organizing bomb attacks, the distribution of pro-monarchist leaflets, the promotion of Western culture and gun-running, the minister added.

President Returns From Visit to Esfahan

LD1801073093 Tehran IRNA in English 0719 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Esfahan, Jan. 18, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani wound up his four-day visit to the central province of Esfahan and returned to the capital Sunday night.

Speaking to reporters here before departure, the president said that during the visit, he held talks with the provincial authorities and religious figures and inspected several industrial projects.

Various issues, including environment protection, expansion of manufacturing industries, removal of water shortage, extension of transportation network and forestation programs in the province were probed, he added.

He said that water shortage was a serious problem of the province which should be solved through channelling water from Zagros Mountain. He added that further credits would be allocated to the plan in the second five-year development plan. The first plan will end March 1995.

On the need to expand the transportation network, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that some 18 million tons of goods pass through roads in Esfahan Province before reaching their final destination. Therefore, he added, the province is the crossroad of the country and it is necessary to develop a transportation network here to which the government is determined to pay special attention.

Referring to the advancement of desert in this province, he said that the government pays special attention to the forestation program here. 1.2 million hectares of desert land here are to be revived within the next five years, he said.

While in Esfahan, the president and his entourage, including his deputies and several ministers, toured several cities and villages as well as industrial units and inaugurated the Esfahan petrochemical complex.

Azerbaijan Signs Trade Accords Worth $20 Million

LD1601204193 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan Prov.), Jan. 16, IRNA—The Republic of Azerbaijan is to buy as much as dlrs [dollars] 20 million worth of food items and various other products from Iran this year.

Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Asghar Mohammadov told IRNA here Saturday that while in Tehran he had signed agreements with the Iran-Khodrow automobile manufacturing for buying 600 buses costing dlrs eight million this year.

For the first phase of the agreement the company is to supply 20 buses to Azerbaijan and deliver them at 'Astara on the common border, and the rest of them later this month.

He said in his meeting with head of the Mostazafan (oppressed) Foundation, Iran has undertaken to sell Azerbaijan as much as dlrs five million worth of such food items as rice and meat.

The Azerbaijani official said he had also entered into agreements to buy 200 Volvo-trucks from the Iran-Kaveh company of Iran, and dlrs 1.72 million worth of automobile batteries. According to Mohammadov the "Nour battery manufacturing company" of Iran is to offer technical assistance to Azerbaijan for erecting a battery manufacturing plant in Baku.

Since July as much as about dlrs 500 million worth of commodities have been exchanged between the two neighbours, which is expected to go up in the coming months.

Commentary Lists Obstacles to Ties With Egypt

NC1601165093 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Dec 93 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Zia'i: "Tehran-Cairo: Conflict or Understanding?"]

[Text] Many facts show that Cairo has failed in its most important "political strategy" in the Mubarak era; that is, regaining Egypt's pivotal role in the Arab world. This strategy should, from now on, be considered a "dead strategy." The Egyptians' failure to resolve the various problems in the Arab world have rendered it bankrupt, and the Egyptians have attributed this defeat to the powerful wave of "Islamism." Among the current topics that have been granted priority on Cairo's foreign policy agenda is the improvement of relations with Iran as the leader of the international wave of Islamism.

Three major pivots of conflict in Tehran-Cairo relations currently are preventing Tehran from giving a positive reply to the Egyptians' request for improved relations. These three are: "Islamism, Middle East peace, and Persian Gulf security."

1. By attributing terrorism to Iran during the Islamist uprisings in North Africa, Egypt initiated a political onslaught in the Arab world against Tehran. Now this country also is leading the "strategy of crushing" Islamism in North Africa.

Actually, the Egyptians, whose cornerstone in their new political life is based on a strategic bond with Zionism, consider Islamism as their major political threat. Thus, Egypt also has assigned itself the leading role in the global policies of confronting Islamism. The Islamism of the Egyptian people has shaken the political structure of Egypt. Therefore, after achieving "collective peace" between the Arab world and Tel Aviv, the fierce suppression of Muslims throughout North Africa has become the second target of Mubarak's foreign efforts.

2. The Egyptians' failure to achieve "collective peace" between the Arab world and Israel because of the wave of Islamism has caused Cairo to face defeat in one of the most important areas of its foreign policy. Even if this country's "diplomacy of compromise" has scored minimal success, the stability and political legitimacy of

Cairo in various domestic and foreign aspects is being threatened now more than ever.

3. Actually, Cairo also has been defeated in the most important part of its regional foreign policy; that is, in its sly efforts to infiltrate the Persian Gulf. The "respectable rejection" by the regional shaykhs of Cairo concerning the six-plus-two Damascus statement and placing this statement in the "archives of history" have rendered the Egyptians even more helpless. The regional shaykhs always have avoided "excessive friendship" with regimes like Egypt and Syria, because traditionally there have always been traits of hegemonism and greed for wealth in such friendships that have led to "political headaches" and become sources of crises for the shaykhs. Also, the Americans also do not trust any type of security pact except their own all-encompassing and direct cooperation with the shaykhs, and they are more interested than the shaykhs in ending such tunes. The United States does not accept any partner in the region, even if he is one of its own minions.

Ultimately, these three targets will become the main reason for Cairo's intense wish to establish relations with Iran as the first power in the world of Islam. What is Cairo after and what objectives is it pursuing? So long as Cairo does not attempt to reform its position on "Islamism," "Middle East peace," and "Persian Gulf security," however, it should not expect the black clouds over its relations with Tehran to blow away.

Commentary Derides Proposed Israel-PLO Talks

LD2001135093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1111 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "Israeli Parliament Lifts Law Banning Negotiations With the PLO"]

[Excerpts] The Israeli parliament has cancelled a law which up to yesterday banned every kind of contact and negotitiation with the PLO. This law, which was described as an antiterrorist law, was passed six years ago. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the Palestinian negotiating delegation described the cancellation of the law banning contact with the PLO as an important step along a correct path, adding that the continuation of peace efforts is linked to the return of the Palestinians deported to the south of Lebanon. [passage omitted] Apparently, by canceling this law Israel hopes to reduce international and regional pressure and also to turn the deportation of over 400 Palestinians into a secondary issue.

The Palestinian deportees are members of two important Palestinian organizations in the occupied territories, the Islamic Jihad and Hamas organizations, who strongly oppose what is being visualized as prospects for peace. At the same time, it should be remembered that the PLO has an undeniable role in the peace process. None of the members of that organization are participating in the Palestinian negotiating team, but the team openly and in practice receives its instructions from Yasir 'Arafat and visits him each time the bilateral rounds of talks end.

Now, with the cancellation of the law forbidding negotiations with the PLO, the way is opened for the Zionist regime to fulfill 'Arafat's wish and officially recognize the PLO—or at least to enter into negotiations with it.

Many of the PLO's officials consider it a success that a regime bent on killing them should now seek negotiation and compromise with them. Of course, Rabin had previously said the PLO could participate in negotiations over the final situation in the occupied territories. But, Yasir 'Arafat is an obstacle to the path of peace and the PLO has members who are more realistic than he. Rabin's remarks are in the nature of the political haggling which precedes direct negotiations with the PLO and will not bring about much change to the existing situation.

Is the abandoning of the Palestinian deportees issue the price being paid for lifting the antiterrorist law in Israel? Won't negotiations between the PLO and Israel lead to more factional divisions in the ranks of the Palestinians? There are people who believe that negotiations between the PLO and Israel, on the basis of conditions set down by Israel, would weaken the PLO further and render it meaningless.

MKO Seeks Details on Regime's Military Moves

NC2101144293 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1830 GMT 20 Jan 93

["Guidance and Messages" from the "Along With The Liberation Army" series]

[Text] Supporters of the mojahedin, popular resistance forces, brothers and sisters: Greetings on the Mab'as festival, the anniversary of the celestial ascension of the great Prophet Muhammad—peace be upon him and his scion—bearer of glad tidings of justice and liberation from all the enemies of God and the people. Presenting today's program on "Along With The Liberation Army," we offer all the supporters some guidance.

We will continue with messages for the popular resistance forces. Please pay attention to this guidance at the beginning of this program. Resistance units, courageous supporters of the MKO [Mojahehin-e Khalq], you know that the MKO office revealed in a statement that the Khomeyni regime seeks to exploit the situation in Iraq and intervene militarily in the border areas. This is why it launched certain moves and nurtures an insane delusion of inflicting blows on the mojahedin and the National Liberation Army [NLA].

Some days ago, the MKO office reported military moves by the clerical regime near Iraq's southern border. Because the antihuman enemy sought to exploit the circumstances in Iraq to act against the mojahedin and fears defeat at the hands of the mojahedin and the NLA, it is preparing for various antirevolutionary plots. MKO supporters, the popular resistance forces, and our valiant compatriots are asked to be vigilant to thwart every counterrevolutionary move by the enemy by performing their obligations.

In the circumstances, every supporter of the mojahedin and units of the popular resistance, particularly each soldier and military man among the MKO supporters who has any news on the clerical regime's military moves and redeployment of its units, should report to the MKO without delay. The following reports should be conveyed to the MKO immediately:

1. The names of the armed forces units and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps of Khomeyni that have been massed in the northern, southern, and western borders of Iran and Iraq; that is, the battalions, divisions, and brigades deployed on the borders of Azerbaijan, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Ilam, and Khuzestan;

2. The number of units stationed at these borders, as well as the kind and number of armaments and equipment (?in those regions);

3. The number of airplanes and warplanes stationed at the air bases of Dezful and Hamadan;

4. The number of helicopters stationed at enemy bases in Kermanshah;

5. The movements of the regime's agents and mercenaries in the border areas; and

6. All kinds of reports on plans and enemy intentions to carry out any counterrevolutionary plots against the mojahedin and the NLA.

Please send reports on the enemy's movements as soon as possible by telephoning the MKO's liaison department outside the country. Also, send in your detailed reports and news in letters addressed to the MKO's post box addresses in various countries.

Mojahedin-e-Khalq Official Discusses Group's Role

PM1501144693 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Jan 93 pp35-39

[Interview with Mohammad Seyyed ol-Mohaddethin, head of the international section of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Some people claim that the Gulf events have had a negative effect on the political activities of Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization [MKO]. What is the truth?

[Seyyed ol-Mohaddethin] The MKO stemmed from the heart of Iranian society. The organization was formed 27 years ago, in 1965, on modern Islamic progressive bases. The shah, with the help of his terror security organ SAVAK, managed to deal an initial blow to the organization by arresting all its leaders and most of its active members. All the founders and leading members of the organization were then executed with the exception of Rajavi who, after international mediation, was sentenced to life imprisonment. But these blows did not destroy the organization. They increased its popularity, power, and influence, which made it the biggest threat to the mullahs' dictatorship. Khomeyni, who saw the daily growth of the MKO as a threat that could signal the end of his regime, imposed an unequal war on the mojahedin with merciless repression. The number of mojahedin and supporters executed since 1981 has reached 100,000. Despite these massacres, the mojahedin are now the backbone of the political alternative to the Khomeyni regime; namely, the Iranian National Resistance Council. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] But how did your organization manage to survive that dangerous phase? Did it remain active after the battles in that crisis?

[Seyyed ol-Mohaddethin] Although the Kuwait crisis that led to the war did divert attention from the Tehran regime and gave the mullahs major gains, the mojahedin, because of their continuous vigilance, were not weakened by that crisis. They became stronger and more prepared. The war did not bury them.

At political and international levels, the organization stressed to the region and the world that the main threat to the entire Gulf region was the Tehran expansionist regime. All politicians and decisionmakers in the region are aware of that.

In the military field, after the Iraq-Iran war and particularly after Khomeyni's death, the MKO concentrated on two things. The first was the Iranian National Liberation Army. We reorganized its formation and weapons, held training courses, and carried out extensive exercises. The second was the internal aspect. We reorganized our large forces and supporters inside Iran with the aim of creating an organized movement and a framework for popular opposition. The Gulf crisis delayed our activities to a large extent, but we resumed these activities after the crisis. As regards the Liberation Army, it has been reorganized under the supervision and direct command of Maryam Rajavi, the deputy commander in chief of the army. In the past few years and after extensive exercises, it has been transformed from a simple infantry army into a fully trained army with various armored, artillery, and engineering formations. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has managed over a period of time to develop its relations with the West, relations that are still tangible. Hasn't that undermined you?

[Seyyed ol-Mohaddethin] There is no possibility of harmony or accord between that regime and the civilized world. That regime only exports terrorism, crisis, and Khomeyniism. For this reason, it has not been able and will never be able to establish normal relations with the civilized world and the West. No state is seriously willing to establish strategic political and economic relations with it. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] One gets the impression from the current international image of Iran that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has managed to overcome the danger period and now seems to be strong at home. Does this mean that the MKO, as an active organization at home, has been weakened?

[Seyyed ol-Mohaddethin] After Khomeyni's acceptance of a cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war and then his death, there was no chance of stability and no future for the regime. Khomeyni was the only man who could, to some degree, control the furious contradictions within his regime. He managed to unify the various wings despite their arguments and conflicts. Days after his death, some circles tried to polish Hashemi-Rafsanjani's image, but it is now perfectly clear to every politician that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has failed the test. [passage omitted] The power struggle, which used to be between the imam's known line and Hashemi-Rafsanjani's wing, has now reached the highest level, and it is now between Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

[Correspondent] The Iranian Government has largely increased its exports, especially its oil exports. That enables it to strengthen its military and economic structures. Does that undermine your opposition capabilities?

[Seyyed ol-Mohaddethin] There can be no doubt that the Tehran regime squandered the country's wealth and natural resources by purchasing all types of modern and old weapons. This year it has allocated $15 billion for military armaments from various states.

As regards the economic situation, the facts about Iranian society indicate the opposite. The economic conditions of Iran and the Iranian people have deteriorated substantially over the past few years. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the social leadership structure of MKO loyalists inside Iran?

[Seyyed ol-Mohaddethin] The leader of the Iranian MKO is Mas'ud Rajavi who is also chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council and commander in chief of the National Liberation Army. Maryam Rajavi is secretary general of the mujaheddin and deputy commander in chief of the Liberation Army. A year ago, Fahema Arwani was unanimously elected deputy secretary general of the organization by the organization's Central Council. Next in the organization's chain of command comes the Central Council that now consists of 838 members comprising the Executive Committee members and assistants, as well as officials of the various organs of the organization. These are the organization's officials working in the various military, political, and informational organs inside Iran and abroad. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What are the chances and conditions for a reconciliation with Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government?

[Seyyed ol-Mohaddethin] Our bitter experience and the high price we have paid lead us to the conclusion that the Khomeyni [as published] regime cannot coexist peacefully with anyone. The word loyalty does not exist in the regime's vocabulary. The regime sees affection, leniency, and tolerance only as weaknesses. Through its own conduct, the regime has only left one way open for dealing with it, and that is the way of firmness and force. [passage omitted]

Fundamentalism Compared to European Renaissance

NC1601203693 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 31 Dec 92 p 16

[Commentary by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "Fundamentalism and Intellectualism"]

[Text] 1. Westerners have given and continue to give a spiteful connotation to the word fundamentalism! They want to make this word synonymous with bigotry and backwardness coupled with brutality and lack of indulgence. But today the issue has gone beyond derogatory and allusive remarks. Fundamentalism is the name that has been given to the immense movement in the world of Islam which has, first and foremost, absorbed Muslim intellectuals and has gone even further to include all the masses. The Europeans have no alternative but to compare this movement with the Renaissance, and it is because of this that they greatly fear the consequences of this movement since the Renaissance was able to free European thought from superstition and to politicize the people. It created new fundamentals of legitimacy and brought democracy and freedom to the Europeans. Next to all this, it also brought technological and scientific progress to the West. Therefore, what the West is proud of today—from economies to industries and political systems—is because of the Renaissance. Will fundamentalism have the same impact on the world of Islam?

2. What does fundamentalism as a new process of thinking in the world of Islam mean? What are the fundamentalist Muslims in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia saying? Anyone who hears the word fundamentalism in the West involuntarily thinks of Islamic Iran and his eminence the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, who has been recognized as the great founder of fundamentalism. Of course, the West goes even further than this, and whatever action it wants to take against fundamentalism, it aims at Iran! But of course, we do not harbor any fears.

One of the special characteristics of fundamentalism is its simple and straightforward nature. It says that the way to mankind's salvation is through Islam; that Islam is a guideline for individual and social life; that the most important manifestation of social life is a government and that Islam offers an Islamic government; that the world of Islam today is backward because it has distanced itself from Islam; and that if you want to use this distance as a yardstick to measure backwardness, it is only sufficient for you to look at the situation of the rulers in the world of Islam! Every Muslim, however, has a duty to perform—to strive to establish an Islamic rule. This is the most important of duties.

3. You can see how in the same way that the Renaissance was able to bring a "hopeless" and "cut-off" people into the political scene and to grant them hope, fundamentalism also has revived Islam. It has politicized everyone, and even more importantly, in the field of politics, fundamentalism has emphasized the legitimacy of rule. Of course, I do not want to say that all people are equally aware of what Islamic rule is, where its legitimacy emanates from, and how it should act. But there are extremely important issues that are widely known among the awakened masses in the world of Islam.

Under Islamic rule, Islamic laws should prevail and the government should be led by someone whose behavior and knowledge are closest to those of the dear Prophet of Islam. Undoubtedly this is neither a comprehensive political philosophy nor an effective science of politics. But these two form the special characteristics of a completely new political system in the contemporary world!

Today, fundamentalism has become a growing process of intellectualism in the world of Islam. The word fundamentalism no longer has a negative connotation. Actually, it never did! It was only the non-fundamentalist who felt aversion towards it. But Muslim Iranian intellectuals have a special mission and responsibility in this process. We should be the watchmen of this immense ideological-political movement! We should pave the grounds for the expansion and deepening of contemporary Islamism. Our dignity and respect in the world are closely linked with the success and spread of the movement for Islamic revival. We should consider the fact that fundamentalist intellectuals in the world of Islam are no longer pro-West and egocentric beings, but self-confident, pious, and highly educated Muslims, and that—more important than this—they fully appreciate their duties. In short: We should show that the formation of Islamic rule is the most important step toward the salvation of the Muslims from the yoke of foreign domination and toward their progress and power in the contemporary world.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan, Sharif Greet President Clinton

BK2101144693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan says, with the induction of the Clinton administration, its relationship with the United States would be based on close cooperation and understanding which is mutually supportive of our goals to ensure that democracy, peace, and stability is strengthened in this region. This was stated in separate messages of felicitations sent by the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, on installation of Mr. Bill Clinton as the new president of the United States.

In his message the president said: Knowing your commitment to revitalizing the American nation and work for peace and justice in the world, we hope that the United States will play a significant role in strengthening peace and stability of the emerging post-cold war world. Pakistan, he said, has greatly valued and continues to value close and friendly relations with the United States of America. The president said, while at present our two countries are cooperating to bring hope and to restore peace in Somalia, I am confident that you will be able to build upon many areas of mutual cooperation that we have shared in the past and to find common goals in future to achieve our democratic, progressive, and prosperous world.

In his message to President Bill Clinton, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said the people and the government of Pakistan join me in wishing you success as you take up the leadership of your great nation at a juncture of history where America could play a vital role in promoting world peace and stability on the basis of recognized principles and human values. The prime minister said Pakistan and the United States have worked together to promote the cause of freedom, peace, and stability in our region. He expressed confidence that our two governments will continue to build upon this friendship—a relationship of close cooperation and understanding—which is mutually supportive of our goals to ensure that democracy, peace, and stability is strengthened in this region.

Clinton Urged To Support Will of Kashmir People

BK2101130993 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jan 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Did Mr. Clinton Really Mean What He Said?"]

[Text] Did President Bill Clinton (for he shed the status of president-elect yesterday) know what he was saying when he told a group of South Asian students from Philadelphia University that the Kashmir dispute should be settled according to the "will of the Kashmiri people"? His precise words were "...we are interested only in what the Kashmiris want." If this becomes official American policy, Pakistan would have reason to rejoice and the people of Kashmir, on both sides of the hair-line which divides their state, would be raising statues in President Clinton's honour.

In real life, however, means does not fall from heaven. When State Department professionals go over the American President's remarks, they are sure to conclude that what he actually meant was something else. The United States has a play-it-safe policy on Kashmir. It admits that there is a dispute but it has shied away from the obvious conclusion that this dispute should be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Mr Bill Clinton has a penchant for making off-the-cuff remarks, but as was shown by the confusion arising over his recent remarks about Iraq (which revealed a position markedly less paranoid than that of the Bush administration), what he may venture to say in the heat of the moment may not necessarily be taken as official American policy the morning after.

Be that as it may, the present American stance on Kashmir is a formula for doing nothing. If the logjam over Kashmir has to be broken, and if the prospects of peace between India and Pakistan are to be strengthened, then the need to generate some fresh ideas becomes imperative. If only President Clinton's casual remarks on Kashmir could become the basis for a fresh American approach towards the problem. Were this miracle to come about, the United States might be persuaded to look differently at the whole question of wanting to declare Pakistan a state which sponsors or supports terrorism. If the United States is truly interested in what the Kashmiris want, then if also would not have much problem in seeing that what is happening in occupied Kashmir is not cross-border terrorism but a popular uprising carried out at great cost in lives and huamn suffering against a hated occupation. If this is terrorism then the American War of Independence was also an outbreak of terrorism and King George III was right in calling the American freedom fighters a bunch of rebels.

Foreign, Domestic Problems Facing Clinton Viewed

BK2101133393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "President Clinton"]

[Text] By the time these lines appear in print Bill Clinton would have been sworn in as the 42nd President of the United States. Whether that is going to signify a major change in America and to the world outside remains to be seen, but there already are at least three fairly clear differences in approach and style between the previous order and the present. After more than twelve years of Republicans in the White House and a state of continuing conflict with a Congress dominated by the Democrats, now there is a Democratic president. It should herald a much smoother relationship between their legislative and executive wings. Secondly, there is now a much younger man at the helm, with a lot more energy and a lot more commitment to social causes. Thirdly, despite what Clinton may or may not have said during his election campaign, he cannot escape the Bush legacy, not just of Iraq and of happenings elsewhere in the world, but also of vital issues at home. The issues of deficit, taxes, health care, military budget, which all looked manageable through pat formulas delivered on the campaign trail are far less amenable to solutions. And paradoxical as it may appear, while his personal approval rating in the public has improved since the election, his credibility on delivering on the election promises, has declined. The hope that be will be able to reduce the deficit substantially, cut middle class taxes, not impose any gasoline tax, reform health care programmaes and restore the competitive edge of American products in the world markets, is not likely to materialise any too soon. To the world at large, however, he is likely to remain a symbol of fear and hope—fear for his capacity to use the immense military power that America is capable of employing against those who are perceived as enemies, and hope for equity in the management of international affairs.

Some of the causes that he has espoused are likely to confront him with tough choices right from today. The hardest being at least three—Iraq, Bosnia, and withdrawal of US troops from Somalia. He will not be able to back away from war in Iraq if he feels that American prestige is at stake, even if he is abandoned by his Western Allies and left alone to fight there. On Bosnia again, his hand could be forced by Serb obduracy and the atrocities that are continuing on the Muslims. Yet there would be some reluctance to act alone on Bosnia. As of today, the subcontinent and its problems, such as of Kashmir and human rights violations by India are of peripheral interest to him. Given the way the Indian government is blocking nuclear non-proliferation, and US concerns, real or perceived, about Pakistan's nuclear programme, greater interest by his administration in this part of the world would be on the cards. If and when that happens the kid-glove treatment by the US to which India is used so far, could perhaps change and things could get even more difficult for Pakistan in the ambit of its relations with the US.

Kanjoo on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue, Ties With U.S.

BK2201025493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, has asked India to discharge its international responsibilities to settle the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Talking to newsmen in Multan last night, he said the Kashmir issue could only be resolved through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, which recognized the right of self- determination of the Kashmiri people. He said Pakistan supports the just cause of the Kashmiri people and it will continue its moral, political, and diplomatic support for them. The minister of state condemned the Indian troops atrocities in occupied Kashmir. He regretted the Indian Government's failure to protect its minority communities, paticularly Muslims, and called upon India to abide by the Human Rights Declaration.

Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said Pakistan enjoys good and friendly relations with all its neighbors, except India. Pakistan also had good relations with South Asian

Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] member states. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to SAARC principles, he regretted that the SAARC Summit had been postponed twice on India's request.

Referring to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the minister of state said Pakistan would not sign it unilaterally. In this connection, he referred to Pakistan's proposal to convene a five- nation conference which has already been accepted by the United States, China, and Russia. He said the United States has held two round of talks with India to persuade it to accept the proposal, while the third round would be held soon.

On Afghanistan, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the war torn country is possible only after the restoration of peace and order there. He said the Afghan people should themselves settle the political differences between various mujahidin groups. Pakistan, however, was ready to bring about reconciliation if approached.

Mohammad Siddique Khan said that Pakistan had always enjoyed excellent relations with the United States despite some ups and downs. Pakistan looks forward to constructive and objective relations with that country under the new administration.

About the Gulf situation, the minister of state said Iraq should adhere to the UN Security Council resolutions and territorial integrity of both Iraq and Kuwait should be respected.

Sharif Comments on Cooperation With Opposition

BK2101145893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the government would take steps for better cooperation with the opposition. Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, he said the government wants to promote democratic process to put the country on the road to progress and prosperity. To a question about the extension of stay of the armed forces in Sindh, he said final decision in this regard would be taken in consultation with the concerned quarters very soon.

Commenting on change of leadership in the U.S.A., the prime minister hoped that with the coming of new administration in America, Pak-American relations will be strengthened. He said with taking over by Bill Clinton as the new president of U.S.A., the new administration would consider Pakistan's stand on Kashmir issue jusifiably. He said Kashmiris should be given the right of self- determination so that they could decide their future according to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Government Considering Buying Russian Arms

BK2001140993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Jan 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Federal Defence Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah Tuesday said that the government was seriously contemplating buying military equipment from Russia to diversify its defence options.

"The military hardware to be purchased includes aircraft like the Russian SU-27s, MiG 29s, Mirage 2000s, and tanks." However, he made it clear that such proposals were only in the evaluation stage.

We have realized that we cannot effort to leave our skies open to adversaries. One should not be dependent on a single source when other options are available."

Talking to a group of journalists there at a local hotel, he refuted the impression that the finance ministry was creating hurdles in providing funds for the purchase of military equipment.

Ghous Ali Shah hoped that in view of Pakistan's geopolitical importance, the new Clinton administration would review afresh those factors which led to the straining of relations between the US and Pakistan.

"Pakistan is a time tested friend and it was Pakistan which directly faced the former USSR after its intervention in Afghanistan."

"It is always good to depend upon tested friends as new friends sometime fail to come up to expectations."

When asked whether the Prime Minister had been isolated in the power troika after the appointment of the new COAS [Chief of Army Staff] Ghous Ali Shah said that as Prime Minister, Mr Sharif was head of the federal government and controlled all national spheres.

To another question, he said, "Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has already approved the government notifications of four lt generals, Nek Mohammad Khan, Rehm Dil Bhatti, Hamid Niaz, and Muhammad Asharaf."

Cooperation Accord Signed With Turkey

BK2101150493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Pak-Turkish Defense Consultative group talks concluded in Rawalpindi today. The Turkish military delegation was headed by Lieutenant General Husayn Tabakoglu, under secretary in the Turkish Ministry of National Defense, while Mr. Salim Abbas Gilani, Secretary, Defense headed Pakistan's delegation. The two sides also signed an agreement at the conclusion of talks. The accord envisages expansion of mutual cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim countries.

Spokesman Denies Atomic Plant Not Being Built

BK2101135193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 20 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Islamabad—A spokesman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has termed as incorrect, says a press release. [sentence as published]

In a statement here, the spokesman said that there was no truth whatsoever in the claim allegedly made in the report about moves in certain circles to sabotage the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant.

The work on construction of the plant has already commenced in right earnest by the Chinese scientists, engineers, and technicians who are being actively assisted by the PAEC counterparts, the spokesman emphasized.

He said that the contract for acquisition of the plant was signed by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and the China National Nuclear Corporation on December 31, 1991 after obtaining the necessary approval.

He said the signing of the contract was effected after prolonged negotiations between the two sides which fully took onto account all aspects of the project including technical and financial.

Referring to the cost of the project, the spokesman emphatically said that it was absolutely competitive and economical.

He said the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission was receiving unstinted support from the prime minister's secretariat, ministries of finance, planning and development and other concerned agencies for the implementation of this vital project. He said that all-out efforts were being made to ensure completion of the project within the laid down schedule.